

THE PLAYMATE BOOK



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FIVE DECADES
OF CENTERFOLDS

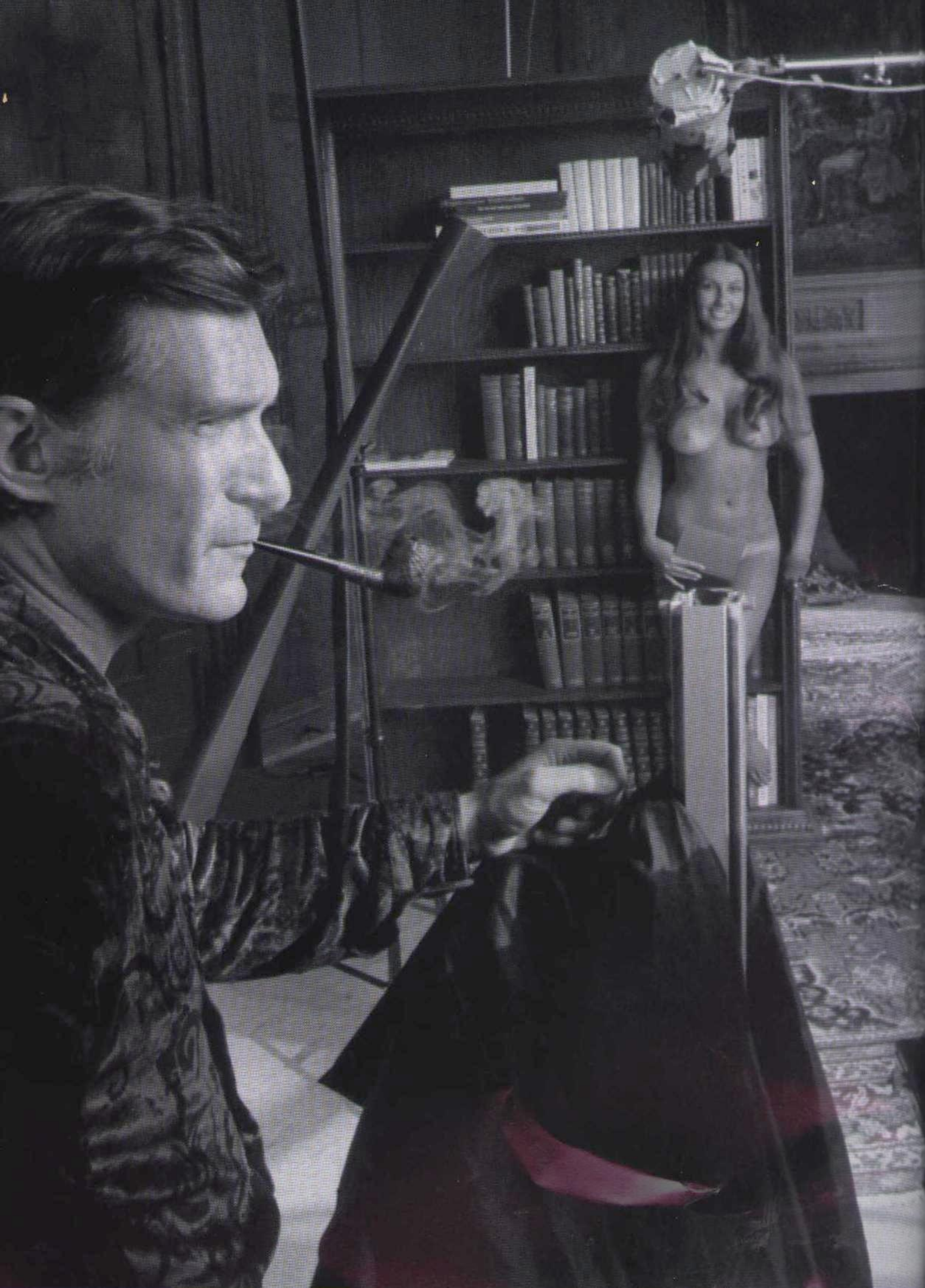


By Gretchen Edgren

Introduction by Hugh M. Hefner

GENERAL PUBLISHING GROUP, INC.





THE
PLAYMATE
BOOK

FIVE
DECADES
OF
CENTERFOLDS



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INTRODUCTION

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...because they thought it would hurt her
...And when they first heard about the
...even their ulcers had
...part of Marilyn's popu-
...the glamour
...cheesecake
...as Life
...she has given us an
...There is no
...conducting repairs
...we're known for
...who beat those dimensions
...It's sweet, white
...her rather sweet
...But Hollywood
...body. It is white, little
...with his voice
...And when she turns and looks
...there is nothing else going
...be it animal, vegetable
...That's what
...in the world

Heart of the Mouth
...but we're mighty pleased
...as a starlet
...got her first movie
...they helped
...better of the



INTRODUCTION

At a Playmate Reunion at Playboy Mansion West in 1979, I said, with undisguised emotion, "Without you, I'd be the publisher of a literary magazine."

That's why, in many ways, this book is much more personal to me than *The Playboy Book*. It is filled with images that inspired my dreams and the dreams of half a century of other American men.

Since I was a child, my fantasies have been fueled by the images of beautiful women in newspapers, magazines and on the movie screen. But this book is more than that. It is a trip down memory lane. A Playmate Reunion in book form. A celebration and a tribute to the remarkable women who have helped make PLAYBOY a publishing phenomenon and changed the way America and the world think about sex.

I've had a lifelong love affair with pin-up pictures. As an adolescent, I hung Petty Girls on my bedroom wall—an early act of rebellion in a puritanical home. When I graduated from high school in 1944, I enlisted in the Army. Like every other young man in the service, I had the usual necessities in my footlocker: a uniform, a helmet and a pin-up. Sometimes it's easy to forget how important pin-up girls were during World War Two. Cheesecake was every bit as American as apple pie, and all the biggest stars and prettiest starlets posed for pin-up pictures. Careers were launched on the basis of one photograph.

Remember Betty Grable's leggy pose in that one-piece bathing suit? That photo helped to make her the highest-paid actress in America. Her success inspired a movie titled *Pin-Up Girl*, as well as a hit song—*You're My Little Pin-Up Girl*. There were others, too: Rita Hayworth, looking seductive in a negligee, kneeling on satin sheets. Lana Turner and her sweater, Dorothy Lamour in her sarong, Veronica Lake with her peekaboo hairstyle.

During the war, pin-ups did more than create stars and promote movies. They were morale boosters, friendly reminders to the boys away from home of what—and whom—we were fighting for. The best pin-ups actually came from *Yank: The Army Weekly*, and a *Yank* editor is actually credited with inventing the name.

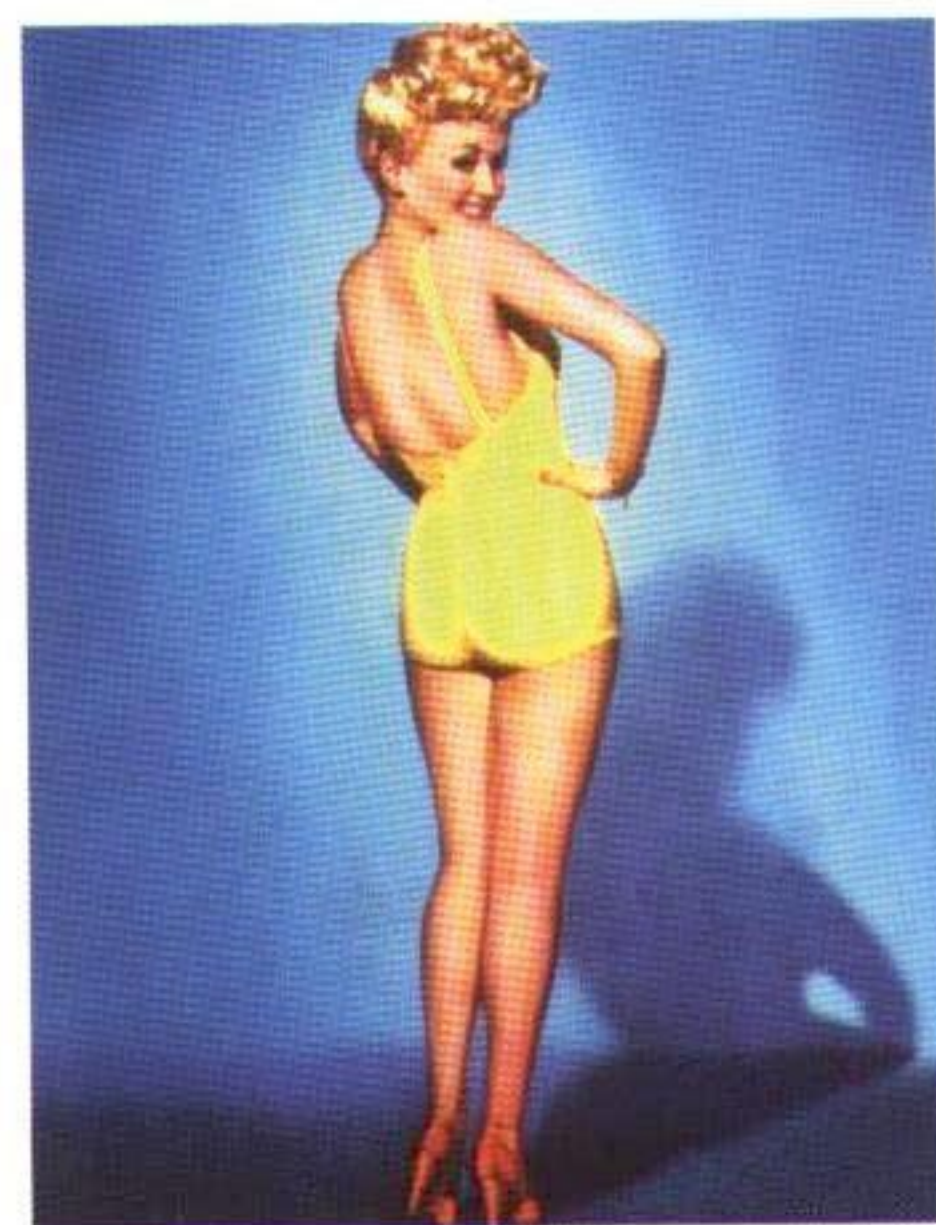
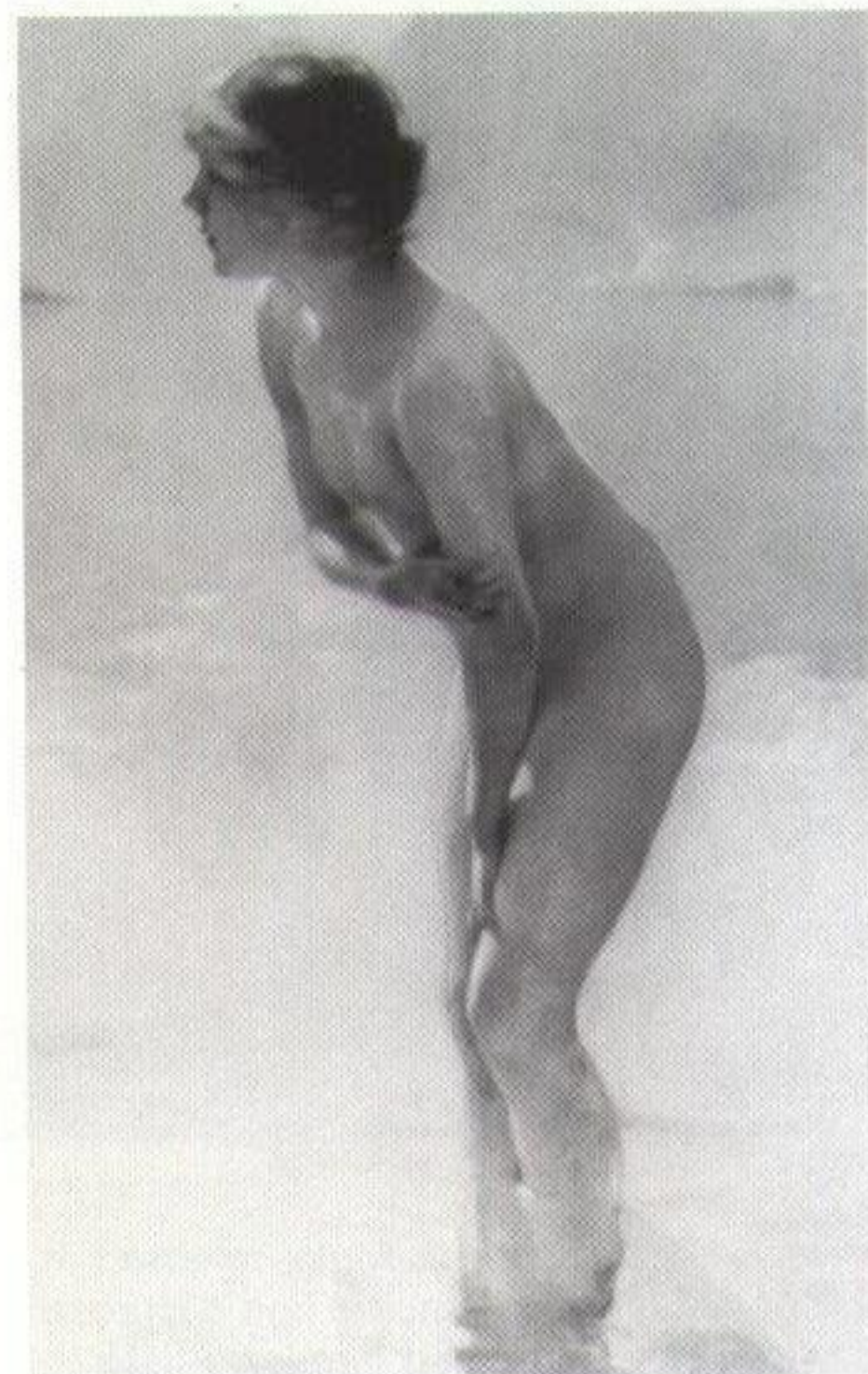
What might seem odd, in light of the recent political controversy over the sale of PLAYBOY and other men's magazines on Army and Navy bases, is the fact that *Yank*, with all its pulchritude, was an official government publication—just like *Stars and Stripes*. *Yank* was read by millions of servicemen around the world, and I never missed an issue.

Of course, the pin-up isn't a 20th century invention. Pictures of beautiful women are as old as civilization itself. They decorated cave walls at man's beginning, inspired the Greeks and Romans in the cradle of democracy, and hang in the hallowed halls of museums around the world. And, of course, as soon as photography was invented, men started taking pictures of naked women. During the Victorian era, you could buy explicit French postcards, art studies and bordello photos in almost any European city.

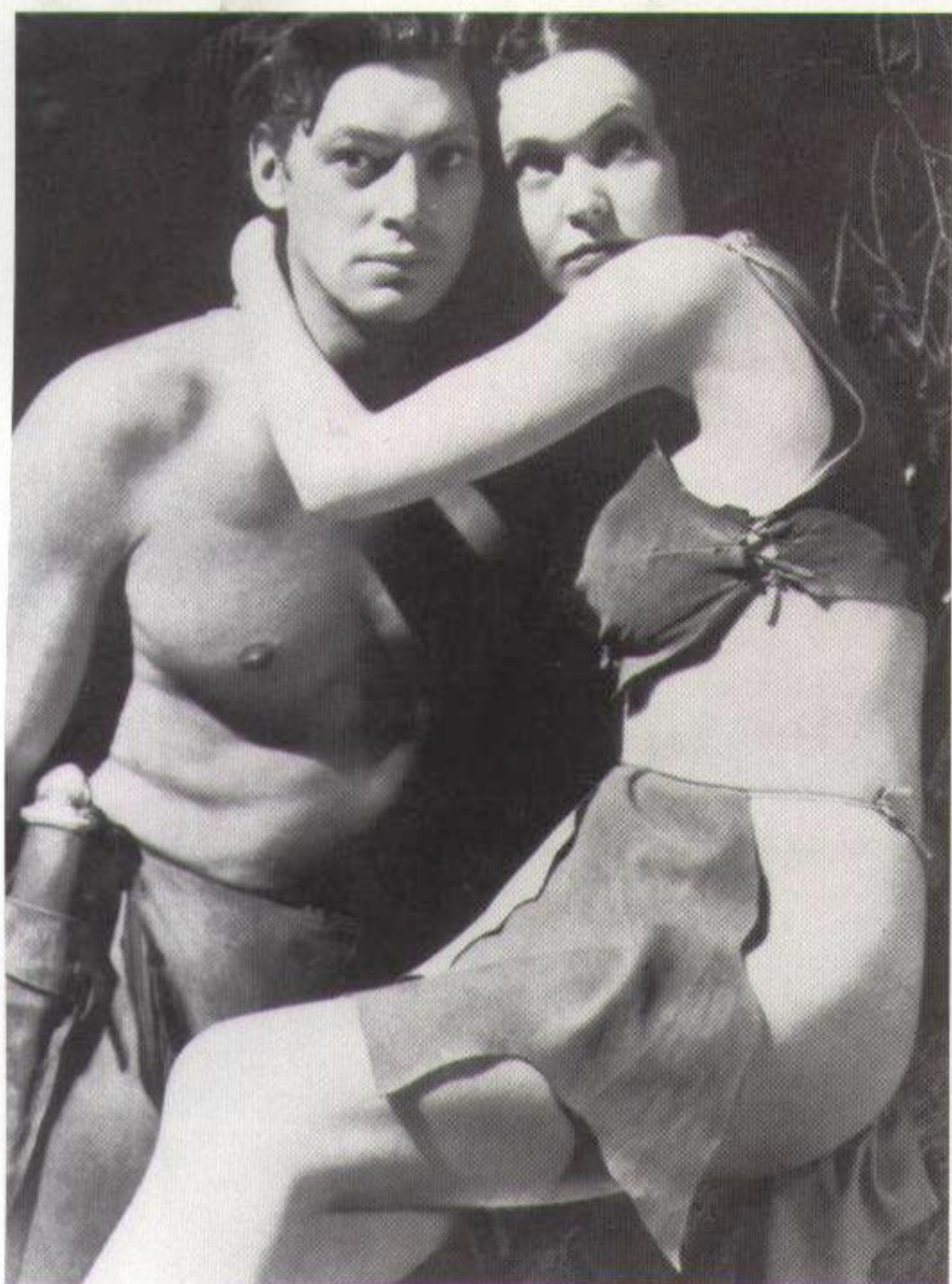
While Americans were less liberated than their Continental cousins, that didn't mean we wouldn't enjoy looking at beautiful women, too. For us, there was the pin-up. Some people called it Good Girl Art, and that's exactly what it was. It had the wholesomeness of the girl next door, but acknowledged her sexuality as well. As you can imagine, these images made a big impression on me during my formative years.

As always, the idea of celebrating sexuality, even as pin-up art, caused discomfort for some people. Take the case of the first important American pin-up, an innocent oil painting called *September Morn*. Painted by the French artist Paul Chabas, it was honored in Paris but went unnoticed here in the United States—until someone discovered that the model was an American maiden. The bluenoses were incensed. The New York Society for the Suppression of Vice attempted to have the painting banned, but the publicity only fanned the public's interest. The previously unnoticed picture became a sensation when it was published as a pin-up calendar. Millions of copies flooded the country. Today, the painting resides in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and wouldn't even raise an eyebrow on prime-time TV.

I was aware of the controversy surrounding *September Morn* at an early age. My interest in censorship came from the movies, because of the impact that the Hays



Artist Paul Chabas' *September Morn* (top), painted in 1912 and honored in Paris, caused a scandal in the U.S. when it was revealed that his model was an American girl. Its censure by the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice virtually guaranteed its widespread circulation. Three decades later, Betty Grable's bathing suit pose (above) found its way into every GI's footlocker and helped make her the country's highest-paid actress.



In *Tarzan and His Mate*, released in 1934, Johnny Weissmuller and Maureen O'Sullivan romped through Africa in abbreviated outfits. Two years later, newly tightened Motion Picture Association Production Code strictures forced Tarzan and Jane to cover it up for *Tarzan Escapes*; by 1942's *Tarzan's New York Adventure* (top right), jungle couture was positively demure.

Office had on films. I was eight years old when Hollywood succumbed to the rigid conformity of the Motion Picture Association Production Code, which took the sin out of cinema. I had seen the pre-Code *Tarzan and His Mate* in early 1934 and loved it—the message of living in harmony with nature was a powerful one for a boy raised in the repression of a typical Midwestern Methodist home such as mine. When I saw the sequel two years later, the Production Code was in full force. Gone was the scanty attire of Tarzan's mate. In subsequent films in the series, the free-spirited Tarzan and Jane were reduced to a sort of Ozzie and Harriet of the jungle, living in treetop suburbia with a son who had mysteriously dropped from the sky. (Because the couple had not enjoyed the benefit of clergy in the jungle, it was the only way MGM could give them a child.)

Under the Production Code, Betty Boop lost her garter and married couples had to sleep in twin beds. No wonder I hated censorship at such an early age. The movies inspired my romantic dreams and stood in stark contrast to the repression I saw in my home and in the world around me. Now they, too, had fallen victim to the censor's wrath.

Fortunately, I found inspiration in other more remote places that would later influence me in the creation of *PLAYBOY*. In 1939, at the age of 13, I had a crush on a girl whose father was a commercial artist. My friends and I used to gather in her basement to listen to records, dance and play kissing games. There, in a corner, I discovered a stash of old *Esquire* magazines.

For me, *Esquire* was a revelation—it was far too sophisticated to be found in my home—and it opened my eyes to a wonderful new world of possibilities. There in one publication were stories by Ernest Hemingway and F. Scott Fitzgerald, ribald cartoons and the pin-up art of George Petty. I loved those Petty drawings and began collecting them. When I papered the walls of my room with them, my parents were properly horrified, but they didn't make me take them down.

When Petty left *Esquire*, he was replaced by Alberto Vargas. Vargas was a Peruvian artist who had been hired by master showman Florenz Ziegfeld to produce lush paintings of the famed Ziegfeld Girls in the Twenties. Ziegfeld's glorification of the American girl was another source of inspiration when I created the Playmate of the Month. I identified with his showmanship and his appreciation of beauty.

But Vargas was controversial. The U.S. Post Office had long considered itself the guardian of public morality, although it was a curiously unqualified one. In 1943 the Postmaster General proved just how unqualified he was by trying to take away *Esquire's* second-class mailing permit. Why? Because, according to the Postmaster General, those Varga Girls (as *Esquire* called them) that boosted the morale of

American fighting forces around the world were "obscene, lascivious and lewd." This brazen attempt at censorship failed—the judge suggested that the Post Office content itself henceforth with the swift delivery of the mails. But *Esquire* was chastened by the experience and, thereafter, any hint of sex or nudity disappeared from its pages. Vargas reappeared a decade later in *PLAYBOY*, along with some of the cartoonists who had been banished after *Esquire's* trouble with the government.

Ironically, while the government was prosecuting *Esquire* for its pin-up pictures, it was—at the same time—publishing *Yank*. The hypocrisy was startling. What was considered appropriate for boys in the service was dismissed as smut on the home front.

A certain amount of censorship is understandable in wartime, but you might expect the postwar era to be a time of celebration when freedom reigned. But when World War Two ended, a wave of repression swept the country. It began with the House Un-American Activities Committee, Senator Joe McCarthy and the Cold War, but it included the censorship of comic books and the banishment of pin-up queen Bettie Page. It was a time of rabid conformity and, after Eisenhower moved into the White House, Jules Feiffer called it the Ike Age, for there was definitely a chill in the air.

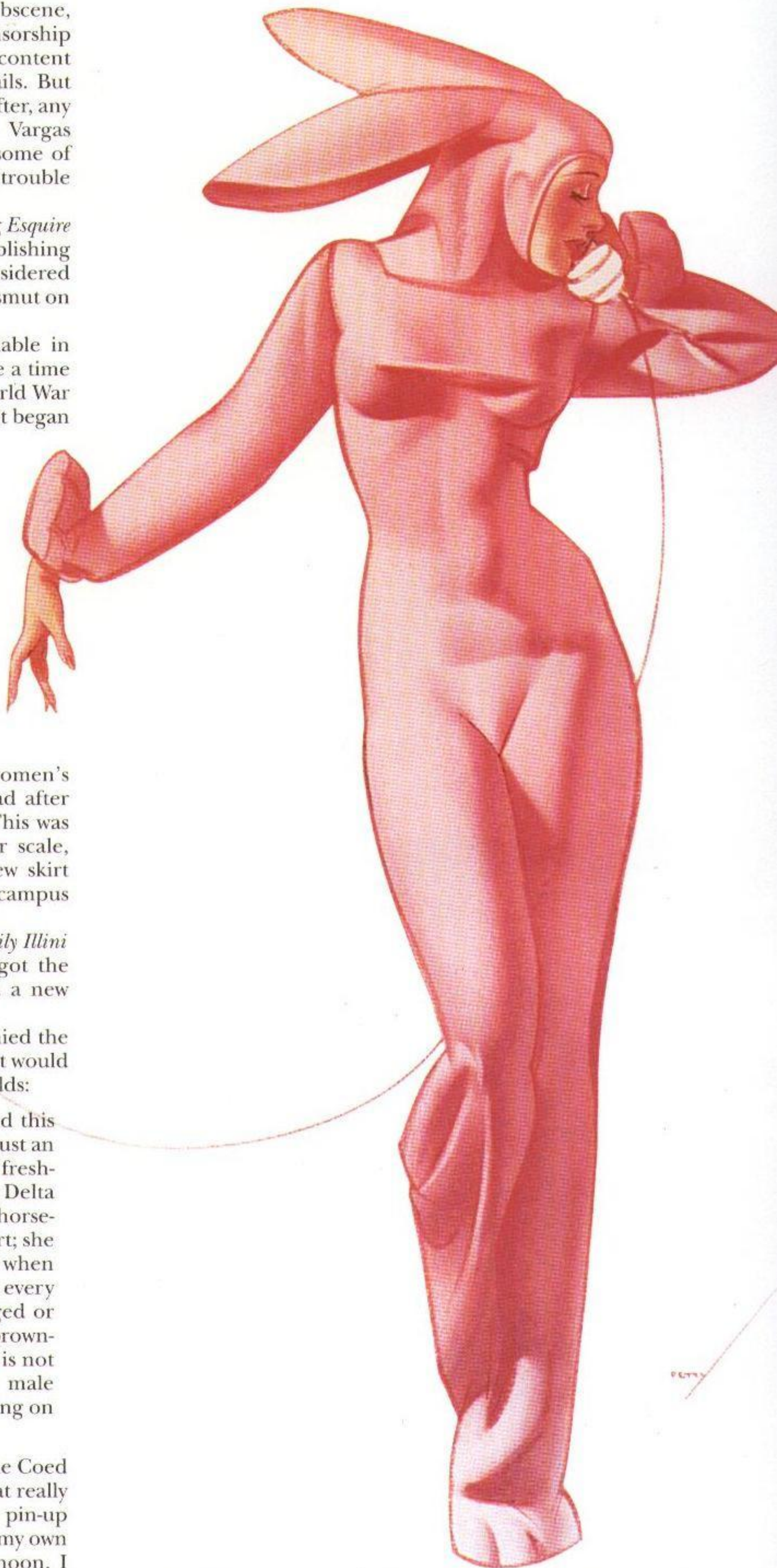
As an undergraduate at the University of Illinois, I was acutely aware of social and political repression. I had anticipated a postwar party similar to the Roaring Twenties—the decade of high jinks and revelry that followed World War One. What we got instead was TV Togetherness and Dior's New Look. When women's skirt lengths went down instead of up—as they had after World War One—I knew we were in big trouble. This was a replay of the Production Code, but on a larger scale, affecting every aspect of our lives. I hated the new skirt lengths and I satirized them in a cartoon in the campus humor magazine.

In college, I wrote and drew cartoons for *The Daily Illini* and *Shaft*, the humor magazine. At one point, I got the chance to edit an issue of *Shaft* and I introduced a new feature I called *Coed of the Month*.

Sound familiar? So does the copy that accompanied the fully clothed photo feature. It read like the prose that would come to be associated with the first *PLAYBOY* centerfolds:

"The lovely miss gracing our February cover and this page is Carol 'Candy' Cannon. No movie star this, just an average run-of-the-mill coed at dear old Illinois. A freshman in Fine and Applied Arts, Carol is pledging Delta Gamma. Hobbies include swimming, tennis and horseback riding, but her real interests are writing and art; she would like to write and illustrate children's books when she graduates. To the cynical chaps who moan that every decent looking campus creature is pinned, engaged or otherwise tied down: Let it be known that 5'6" brown-haired, brown-eyed, lovely, lovable Candy Cannon is not attached, in any manner, shape or form, to any male either on this campus or elsewhere. The line forming on the right is not for the Union cafeteria."

Some skeptical types may think that I invented the Coed of the Month as a clever way to meet pretty girls. That really wasn't the case. The true inspiration came from the pin-up pictures of my past. I even shot some pin-up poses of my own college girlfriend and, on one unforgettable afternoon, I actually talked her into posing nude. Of course, having the film developed wasn't easy. Nudity was still considered obscene in 1948 and Kodak regularly confiscated film with nude images.



As a teenager, Hugh Hefner discovered *Esquire* magazine and its Petty Girl pin-ups. This George Petty drawing, which he hung above his bed, may well have inspired the creation of the Playboy Bunny some years later.



But I believed that there were others out there who resented the suffocating conservatism of the time. And my views were confirmed with the publication of the first *Kinsey Report*, revealing the hypocrisy of America's attitudes toward sex. I wrote an editorial on the subject for *Shaft*, a theme I later expanded upon in *The Playboy Philosophy*.

So there I was. I had created the forerunners to both the Playmate of the Month and *The Playboy Philosophy*—and I hadn't even graduated from college yet!

Finally, in 1953, I got a chance to put some of my ideas into action when I started PLAYBOY. I knew exactly the kind of magazine I wanted to publish—and the only problem I faced was a distinct lack of funds. So instead of hiring models and professional photographers for those first few issues, I bought the rights to reprint pictures from a local calendar company. Luck was with me, because the first calendar picture I purchased was the now-famous nude of Marilyn Monroe, aptly titled *Golden Dreams*. (The calendar company was afraid to send these pictures through the mail because of threats from the Post Office.)

Marilyn Monroe was Miss December 1953, the first Playmate of the Month. But she wasn't called Miss December, and she wasn't called the Playmate of the Month either. All that began with the second issue.

The magazine's original title was *Stag Party*, inspired by a ribald pre-Code cartoon book titled *The Stag at Eve*, published in the early Thirties. And that first "unpinned pin-up" was titled *Sweetheart of the Month*. The threat of litigation from a lawyer for *Stag* magazine prompted me to change the name of our publication to PLAYBOY just before the first issue went to press, but we didn't have time to think up a better name for the photo feature inside. So Marilyn was referred to as PLAYBOY's Sweetheart of the Month.

The first issue didn't have a date on it, because I wasn't even sure there would be a second issue, so we didn't start referring to Playmates by month until the second issue. It was my wife Millie who suggested the name Playmate as a perfect complement to PLAYBOY.

And, of course, the first centerfold wasn't a centerfold either. The calendar shot of Marilyn Monroe appeared on a single page. It wasn't until the third issue that the Playmate became a two-page spread in the center of the magazine. She didn't become a three-page centerfold until March 1956. The concept of the centerfold became world famous and added a new word to the language. "Centerfold" became another way of referring to a picture of a beautiful girl, just as "pin-up" had the decade before.

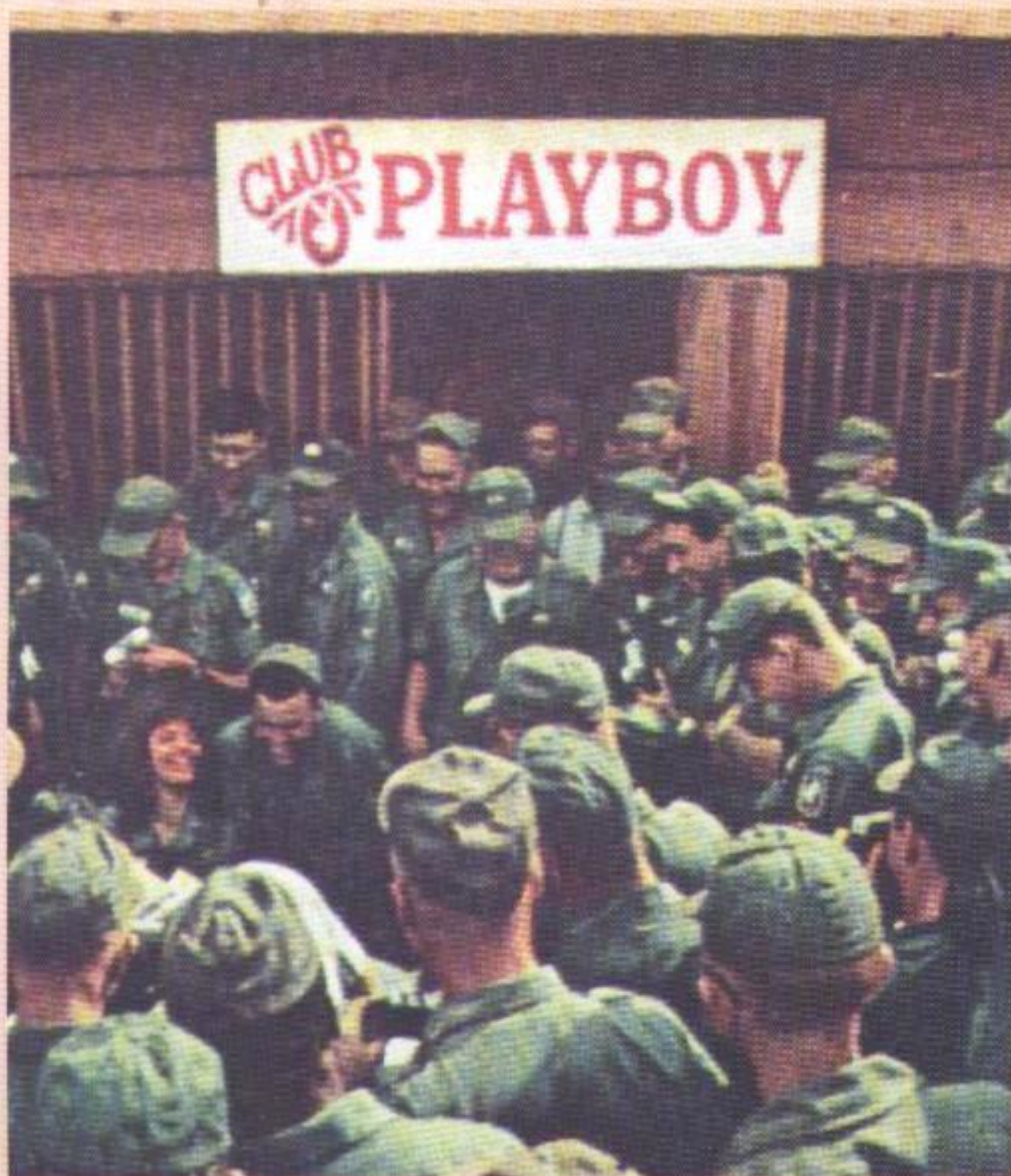
PLAYBOY might be the magazine you insist you read only for the articles, but it's still most famous for being looked at sideways, opened to the centerfold. Throughout the decades, Playmates have appeared most everywhere. Stanley Kubrick's classic *Dr. Strangelove* opens with a scene of Slim Pickens reading PLAYBOY in the cockpit of a nuclear-armed aircraft. James Bond cops a centerfold from the magazine after a caper in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*. When *Apollo 12* landed on the moon, astronauts Alan Bean and Charles "Pete" Conrad carried miniature Playmates inside their checklist wristbands. Comic Mort Sahl joked that an entire generation of young men had grown up convinced that women fold in three places and have staples in their navels.

In the Sixties a correspondent for *The Washington Post* observed: "If World War Two was the war of *Stars and Stripes* and Betty Grable, the war in Vietnam is PLAYBOY's war, and the centerfold Playmate is everybody's girlfriend, mistress or wife." Playmates covered the walls of rec rooms and men went into battle with copies of the magazine in their backpacks. The Rabbit Head logo was painted on planes and helicopters. Playmate Jo Collins, 1965's Playmate of the Year, created an international sensation when she visited the war zone to deliver the first issue of a lifetime subscription to soldiers who had ordered it from southeast Asia.

It's been that way for every military action since. During Desert Storm, Kimberley Conrad started Operation Playmate, organizing fellow Playmates to send letters, photos and messages of good cheer to our men stationed in the Gulf, prompting a letter of appreciation from Commanding General Norman Schwarzkopf. And when American soldiers were sent to Bosnia, Operation Playmate was reactivated.



The pictorial that almost was: Hefner supervises a shooting for the 3-D nude feature he had planned as a showpiece for the first issue of PLAYBOY. The idea was abandoned as too expensive, but it was replaced by an even more inspired notion: publishing Marilyn Monroe's famed calendar nude. On the facing page, Hefner and Production Department Head John Mastro look over proof sheets of Jean Moorehead's October 1955 Playmate story.



Pin-ups have been morale-builders for servicemen throughout the century, and since the beginning of the Vietnam conflict, Playmates have been the pin-up of choice. Jo Collins, Miss December 1964, visited an unofficial "Playboy Club" on her tour of Bien Hoa (above), and a copy of the magazine was a treasured item in the backpack of every well-equipped GI of the era (right). When Iraq's invasion of Kuwait triggered Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Playmates swung into action with a letter-writing campaign they called Operation Playmate; happy recipients included the members of the Death Angels squad (below). And when American troops were sent to Bosnia, Operation Playmate was reactivated.



I have had the personal pleasure of choosing more than 500 Playmates since the magazine began. Always guiding my instincts were my fond memories of the pin-up art of my youth. Just as the pin-ups of the past have been referred to as American Good Girl art, the Playmates have reflected my own romantic view of the opposite sex. From the very first, I was looking for the girl next door as part of a positive, life-affirming attitude toward human sexuality. In a real sense, the Playmate of the Month was as much a political statement as *The Playboy Philosophy* and had much more to do with female emancipation than exploitation, although I didn't think in those terms in the magazine's early days. I was simply trying to get across the message that good girls liked sex, too.

That was a revolutionary concept in the repressed Fifties, when men were supposed to see women as either Madonna or whore, and feel uncomfortable about any expression of sexuality. But it was the same concept that pin-up art had always represented to me. Pin-up art was never sleazy. The girls who posed for pin-up art and photographs in the past made it seem as though sex was OK.

I look at the women in this book with an enormous amount of pride and affection. PLAYBOY and the Playmate of the Month helped spark a sociosexual revolution that continues today. No other magazine and no other images more dramatically reflect the cultural changes that America has been through during the last half of the 20th century. I know the women are proud of their role as well.

Thanks to the Playmates, PLAYBOY has become a rite of passage from adolescence to adulthood for generations of American men. They have made PLAYBOY the best-selling men's magazine in the world for five decades. Almost everyone remembers his first issue of PLAYBOY and his first Playmate.

That's one of the reasons why the women in this book are so special. Playmates are more than images on a page. They are the stuff that dreams are made of, but they are also human beings who have touched the hearts and minds of our readers. To read this book is not unlike visiting your high school reunion. You'll meet Playmates who have gone on to become worldwide celebrities, actresses, writers, doctors, lawyers, artists, athletes, singers, dancers, interior designers, sculptors, photographers, real estate brokers, corporate executives, innkeepers, philanthropists, teachers, wives, mothers and, yes, even grandmothers. It's always fun to catch up with old friends and familiar faces.

Some readers, of course, will be looking for one particular face. Almost everyone has a favorite Playmate. What could be a better way to keep the fantasy alive than to find out where she is today and what type of woman she has become?

Believe me, it's fun to keep in touch with your favorite Playmate. I should know—I married mine.

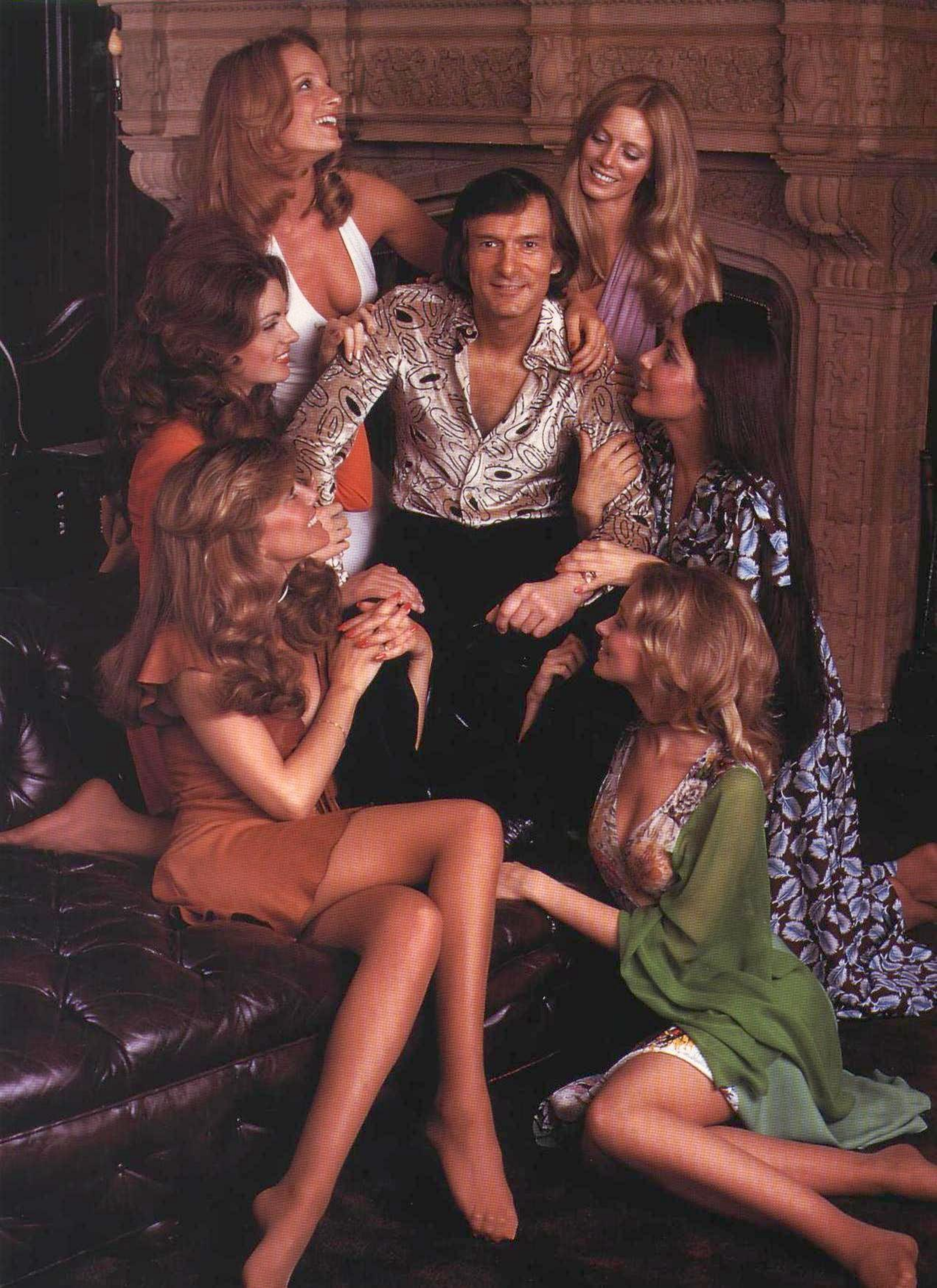
Hugh M Hefner

Hugh M. Hefner
Editor-in-Chief



Hef in 1961, getting a close look at test photos of centerfold candidate Heidi Becker. She became Miss June 1961. At bottom, cartoonist Paul Coker Jr.'s view of how *Peanuts* creator Charles Schulz might have dealt with the Playmate phenomenon. Coker submitted the spoof for a planned, but never published, PLAYBOY parody issue; it ended up illustrating a 1965 piece of fiction, *Oh Danny Boy*.





*To the
remarkable
women
who
inspired
this book.*

Opposite: Hugh M. Hefner and a sextet of Playmates, photographed for a 1974 issue of Cosmopolitan. Clockwise from bottom left: Janice Pennington, Phyllis Coleman, Claudia Jennings, Connie Kreski, Christine Maddox and Cyndi Wood. Overleaf spread: Marguerite Empey (Diane Webber), Miss May 1955 and Miss February 1956.



THE FIFTIES





Miss December 1953

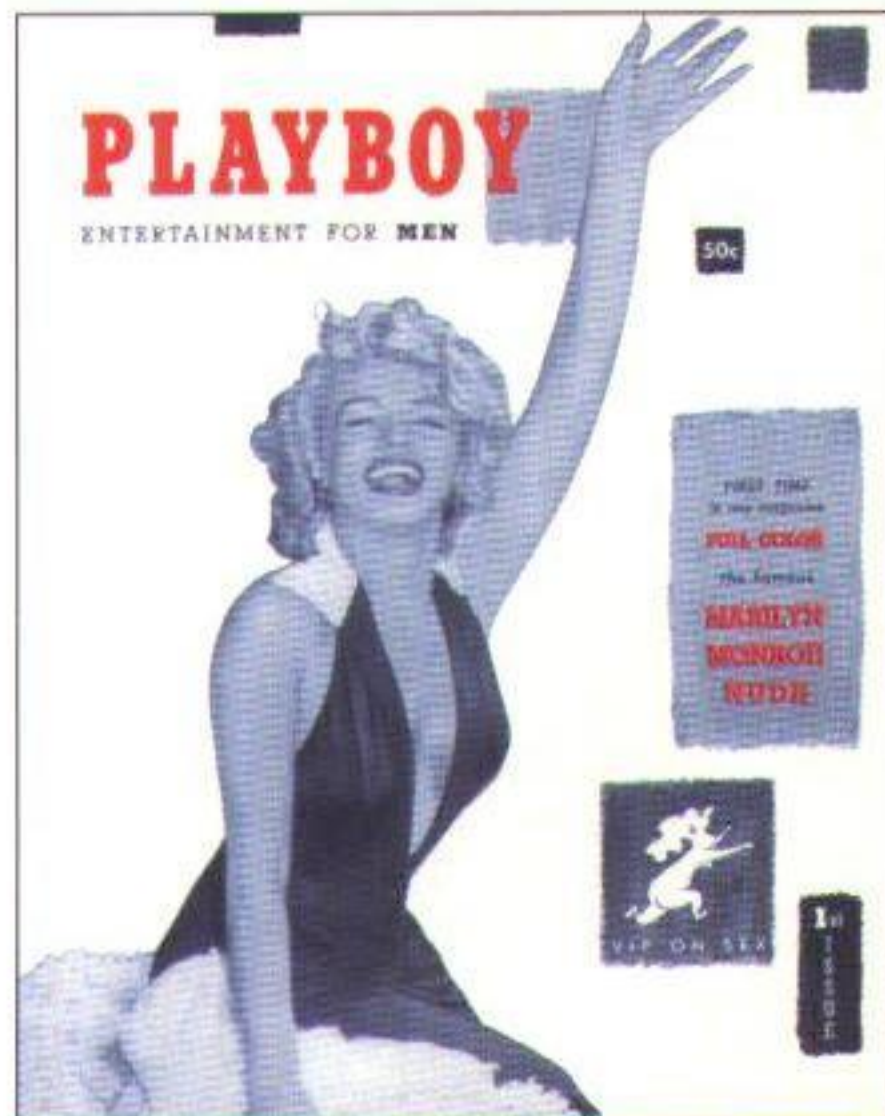
Marilyn Monroe

Had it not been for Marilyn as its Miss December 1953, Hugh Hefner's dream might have ended with PLAYBOY's first, undated issue. His lucky break—securing the famous Monroe nude that everyone talked about but, because of Post Office restrictions limiting distribution, had seldom been seen outside the backroom walls of auto-repair shops—virtually guaranteed the success of his infant publication. The issue sold over 50,000 copies, and a mint-condition copy today can be worth \$10,000.

Marilyn Monroe was the ultimate sexual icon of our time, an incendiary combination of sex and innocence. Born Norma Jean Mortenson, she spent many of her early years in a succession of foster homes. Perhaps to escape still another one, she married aircraft worker Jim Dougherty shortly after her 16th birthday in 1942. When he joined the merchant marine, she got a job in a factory, where she was discovered by photographer David Conover—who'd been commissioned by one Ronald Reagan, then a captain in the Army, to take pictures of attractive women engaged in the war effort. A picture appeared in *Stars and Stripes*, and she was on her way to becoming

a favorite GI pin-up.

Norma Jean divorced Dougherty in 1946 and signed a contract with Fox, which gave her a new name: Marilyn Monroe. Leon Shamroy, the cameraman who filmed her screen test, later recalled in *Esquire*: "Every frame of the test



Left, Marilyn waves from the cover of PLAYBOY's premiere issue. At the age of 19, she had posed for famed calendar artist Earl Moran, who took black-and-white photographs (inset) of Marilyn—whom he considered his best and sexiest model—as artist's reference for his popular paintings. Above, one of Moran's photo studies, which appeared in a January 1987 PLAYBOY tribute. Opposite, the second of Tom Kelley's famous MM nudes.

HEF
on

MARILYN MONROE

More than anyone else in our lifetime, Marilyn Monroe made nudity socially acceptable. Other Playmates, and other actresses, cited her pioneering poses as the reason they decided to appear au naturel in PLAYBOY: for some, to perpetuate their beauty on the magazine's pages, for others, as a proven road to stardom. Marilyn's popularity encouraged a number of platinum-blond variations: Jayne Mansfield, Mamie Van Doren and Diana Dors among them. All appeared in PLAYBOY, but there was, and will always be, only one Marilyn Monroe.

We both grew up at the same time, listening to the same music and going to the same movies. She was born in Los Angeles and I in Chicago in 1926, but both our dreams came from Hollywood. In 1946, the year Twentieth Century Fox signed her to a year's contract at \$125 a week, I was discharged from the Army and started college at the University of Illinois. I saw the movie that marked her film debut, *Scudda-Hoo! Scudda-Hay!*, on an unforgettable Sunday afternoon in Danville, Illinois. (I'd just had sex with my college coed girlfriend for the first time.) I don't remember Marilyn's bit part in that film, and neither does anyone else. Her close-ups ended up on the cutting-room floor. But her career began to take off in 1950 with small parts in *The Asphalt Jungle* and *All About Eve*. Those roles made a big impression on me and a lot of other people, particularly because the stories about her having posed for a nude calendar surfaced at the same time.

It all came together in 1953, when Marilyn appeared in *Niagara* and I started making plans to launch PLAYBOY. I bought the rights to her nude photo from the John Baumgarth Co. in Melrose Park, Illinois. For a total of \$500, Mr. Baumgarth threw in the color separations as well. It was surely the best investment in the history of publishing. The famous calendar shot, taken by pin-up photographer Tom Kelley, was called *Golden Dreams*. What a perfect title. I sat down at the card table in the living room of my apartment on Chicago's South Side and knocked out on my trusty L.C. Smith typewriter the copy that accompanied the three-page feature on PLAYBOY's *Sweetheart of the Month*. A smiling, waving Marilyn appeared on the cover as well, in a shot purchased from Globe Photos and retouched by Art Director Arthur Paul for our purposes. PLAYBOY, in part thanks to Marilyn Monroe, was off and running.





radiated sex." Two more marriages—to baseball great Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller—thousands of pin-up pictures and 29 movies later, Marilyn Monroe was the world's reigning sex goddess—"a very Stradivarius of sex," as Norman Mailer later described her. A mass of seeming contradictions, Marilyn was ambitious yet insecure, intelligent but



untutored, one minute full of laughter, the next inexplicably depressed. If there had been a Playmate Data Sheet in her day, she might have listed as her turn-ons poetry, telephones, Chanel No. 5 and Dom Pérignon; as turnoffs, writing letters, time clocks, cooking and underwear. Most tellingly, she looked to others—the men in her life, her legions of fans—for ratification of her self-worth.

Marilyn and photographer Lawrence Schiller had been discussing a PLAYBOY cover shooting—to accompany photos of the skinny-dipping scenes from her off-again, on-again movie *Something's Got to Give* (opposite)—when, on the night of August 4, 1962, she was found dead in her home in Brentwood. To this day, the facts of her death are in dispute. Was it suicide, an accident or even a contract murder requested

by adherents of the Kennedy family who feared her rumored liaisons with President John F. Kennedy or his brother Robert would come to light? Each theory has its proponents.

Whatever the true circumstances of Marilyn's death, her memory remains alive in the hearts of millions. In a January 1964 tribute, *MM Remembered*, PLAYBOY published recollections from some of the people who knew her best. Here are but two:

Roy Craft, her onetime press agent: "She had such magnetism that if 15 men were in a room with her, each man would be convinced that he was the one she'd be waiting for after the others left."

Time magazine, in a posthumous essay: "The urge to go nude was her most public whim. 'I dreamed I was standing up in church without any clothes on,' she recalled, 'and all the people there were lying at my feet.' Years later, she posed nude for Christendom's most famous calendar, and from that moment on, she was the only blonde in the world."



Among the highlights of Marilyn's cinematic career, from the top: *The River of No Return* (inset), *The Seven Year Itch* with Tom Ewell, *Some Like It Hot* with Tony Curtis and her last completed film, *The Misfits*, with Clark Gable.





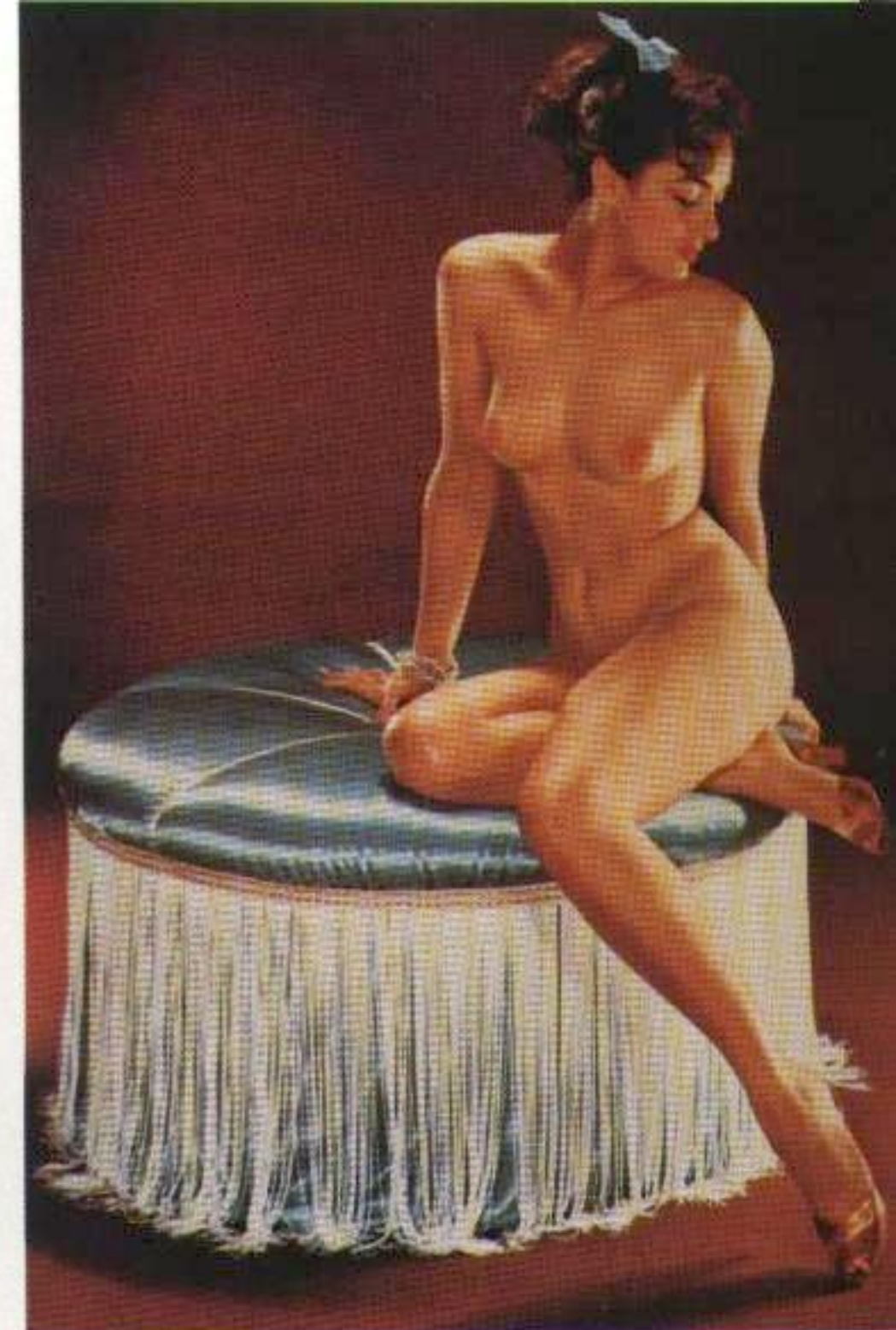
HEF on PLAYMATES OF THE MONTH

The idea of naming Playmates after the months of the year came from the movies. In MGM's 1943 musical *Du Barry Was a Lady*, Red Skelton referred to the models in a calendar sequence as "Miss January, Miss February" and so on. The name "Playmate" was suggested by my wife Millie because of its interconnection with PLAYBOY. *Playmates* was also a popular song recorded by Kay Kyser when I was in high school.

Miss January 1954

Margie Harrison

PLAYBOY's second "lovely unpinned pin-up" was the first to be referred to by month, as "Miss January, PLAYBOY's Playmate of the Month." Hefner purchased Margie's photo (right), as he had Marilyn Monroe's, from the files of the John Baumgarth Co. of Melrose Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Unlike Marilyn, Margie was a relative unknown, a professional figure model who appeared in the issue anonymously. She was later featured in other publications, including the men's magazines *Follies* and *Gala*.



Miss March 1954

Dolores Del Monte

Another professional model, Dolores (above) had been photographed for Baumgarth calendars. Like other Playmates of the period, she was not named in the magazine's pages—nor was her photographer. Not until publication of *The First Two Dozen Playmates* in the January 1956 issue were the earliest Playmates identified by name.

Miss February 1954 *Margaret Scott*

Hers, another photo purchased from the John Baumgarth Co. (left), was the first to be reproduced as a double-page spread—and she received the lioness' share of fan mail for the year. No photographer's name appears on the photo in PLAYBOY's archives. Although Margaret's picture was obviously shot in a studio, it had a more natural setting than most.



Miss April 1954 *Marilyn Waltz*

Marilyn's 1955 Playmate photo is by veteran photographer Hal Adams, and photo archivists had assumed this calendar shot was his as well. Not so, says Adams; Marilyn's 1954 pose was more revealing than he cared to shoot. "I never showed real nudity," he says. "That's why I used trellises or leotards in my pictures. I'm not prudish or anything like it, but it's just my own feeling that a picture is more erotic when the woman has some clothes on."

HEF

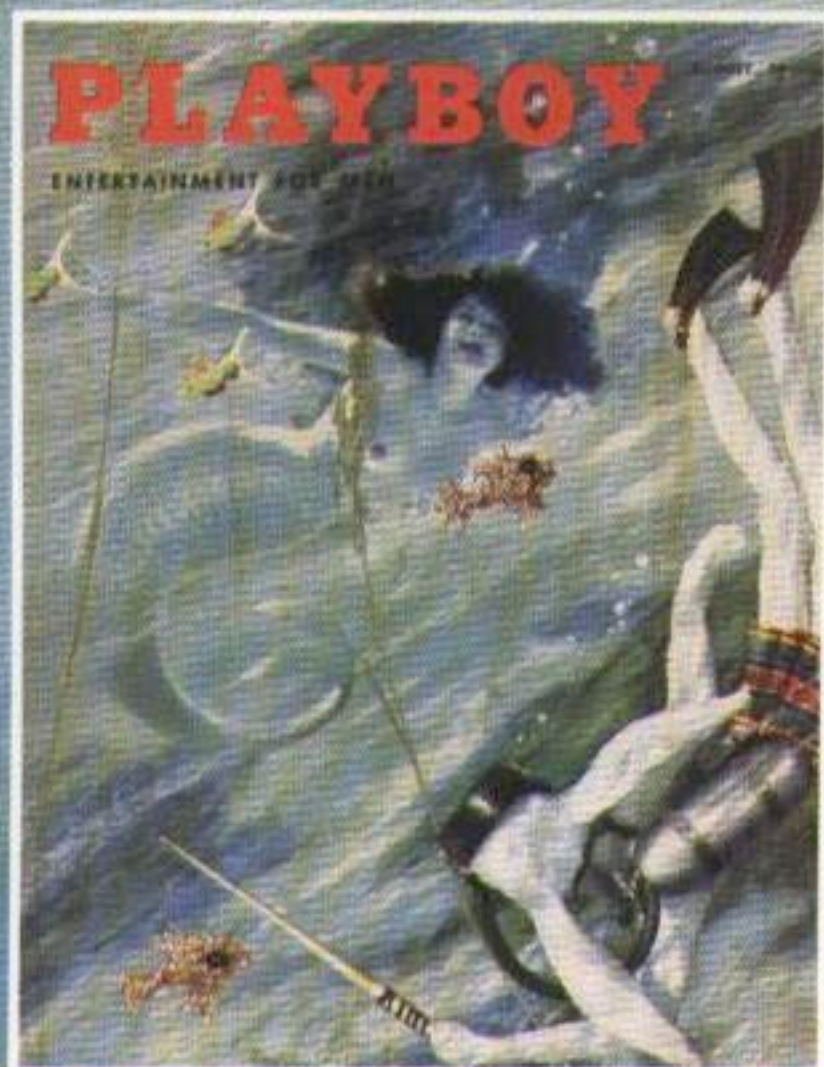
on

MARGARET SCOTT

and

MARILYN WALTZ

In going through the images to be included in this book, I noticed a resemblance—particularly in the hair and the breasts—between Margaret Scott and model Marilyn Waltz, who was Miss April in both 1954 and 1955. The name Margaret Scott doesn't appear in lists of pin-up models, and inquiries about her among photographers and fans on the Internet have so far been fruitless. If Margaret and Marilyn are the same person, then she has tied Janet Pilgrim's record as our only three-time Playmate without anyone realizing it.



Miss May 1954

Joanne Arnold

PLAYBOY readers first caught sight of Joanne, a sought-after model of the day, in the March 1954 pictorial *Sex Sells a Shirt*, a behind-the-scenes report on the popular Hartog Shirt ad campaign shot by Hal Adams, a top advertising photographer. Peter Gowland, a pin-up pioneer, aimed his camera in Joanne's direction—even experimenting with a homemade underwater camera housing—for her August 1955 cover and picture story *Gowland's Cool Pool* (above). The feature became a classic to which *Sports Illustrated* paid tribute in its March 28, 1990 issue, but it's the cover (above, inset) that PLAYBOY aficionados remember best, due to a fortuitous accident. Sometime during the printing process, a strategically placed strand of seaweed slipped off mermaid Joanne's right breast.



Miss July 1954

Neva Gilbert

An aspiring actress and popular pin-up in the early Fifties, Neva (left) went with Marilyn Monroe to have some pictures taken by Tom Kelley. "A few months later, I heard that the pictures had appeared in a new magazine called PLAYBOY, but I couldn't find a copy," she said in 1979, when she posed for *Playmates Forever!* (below). "I didn't see my centerfold until 25 years later."



Miss June 1954

Margie Harrison

Her previous pose as Miss January had reminded some readers of the famous Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen. For her second appearance (right), again a calendar-company purchase shot by an unidentified photographer, Margie pinned up her hair and donned long black gloves—foreshadowing by several years the garb of LeRoy Neiman's frolicsome Femlin.

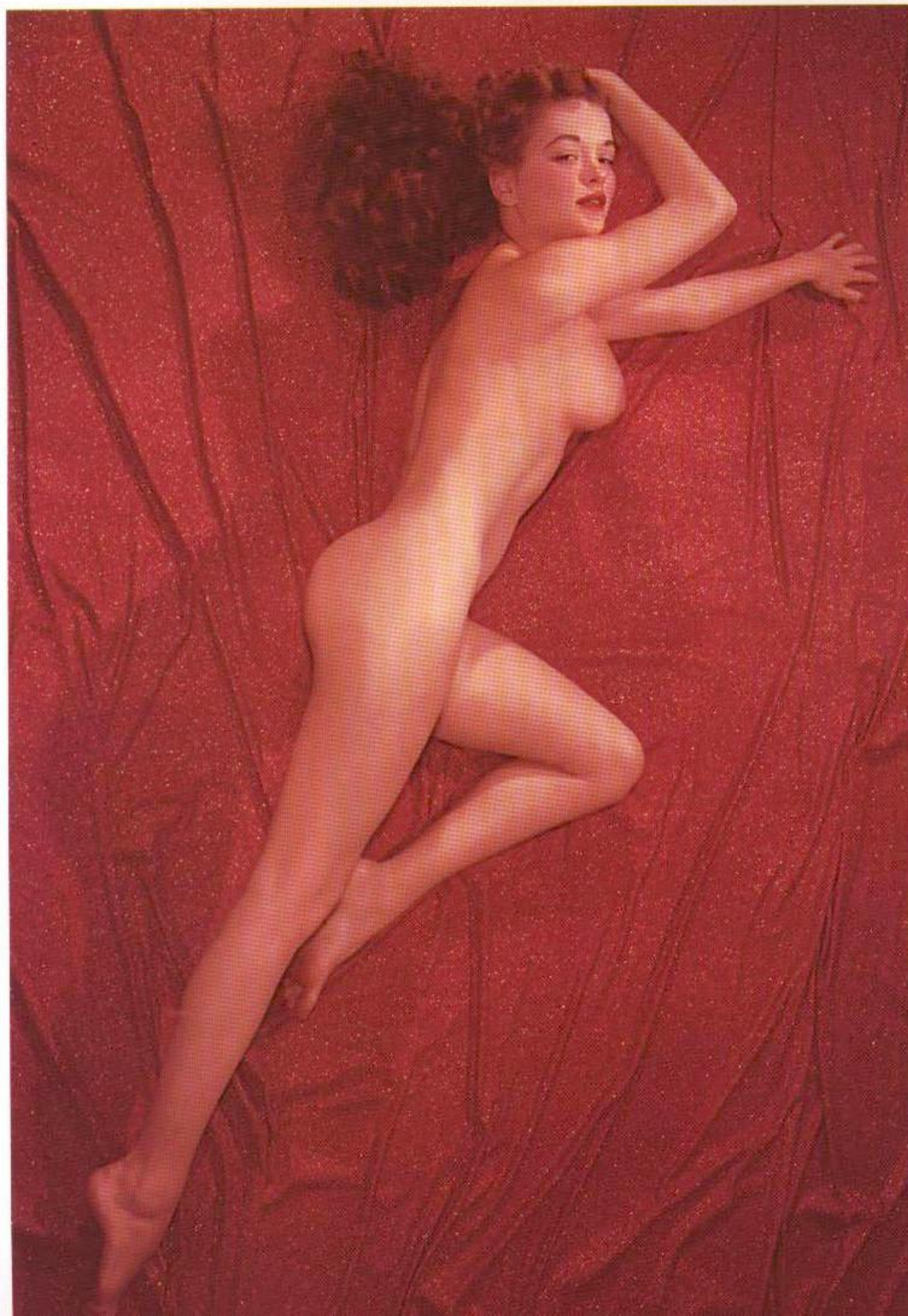
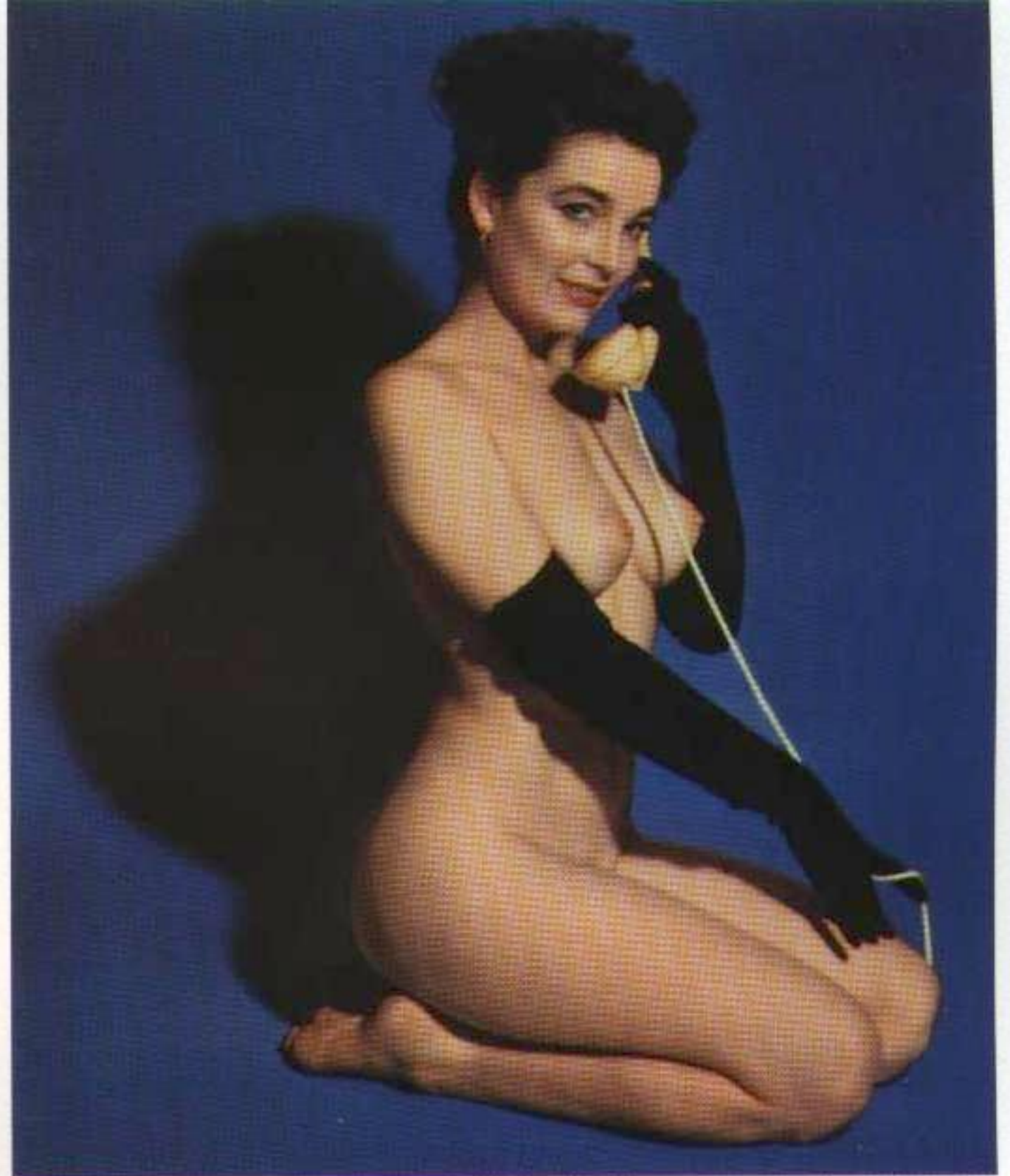
PHOTOGRAPHER

PETER GOWLAND

on

MARGIE HARRISON

My wife, Alice, and I photographed Margie many times, though not for PLAYBOY. She was so beautiful. We're trying to do a book on our 50 years of shooting classic nudes, selecting approximately 100 of our all-time best pictures. Margie will definitely be one of the 100.



Miss August 1954

Arline Hunter

Arline (left) was a well-known starlet and Marilyn Monroe look-alike, and her Playmate photo—the first one that didn't come from the calendar company—is an obvious tribute to the second of Tom Kelley's two MM nudes, the one that didn't originally appear in PLAYBOY (see page 18). She was the first Playmate shot by California photographer Ed DeLong, who was taking stock photos and selling them through the New York agency Rapho-Guillumette. A January 1956 picture of Arline in the bathtub is by another pin-up master of the era, Andre de Dienes. She also appeared in several films, including *The Outsider*, with Tony Curtis, and was on the TV series *Malibu Run*.

HEF

on

ARLINE HUNTER

Arline's notoriety was based largely on her resemblance to Marilyn Monroe. It is Arline, not Marilyn, who appears in the nude film short *Apple Knockers and Coke*, which was widely promoted and distributed as starring Marilyn Monroe.

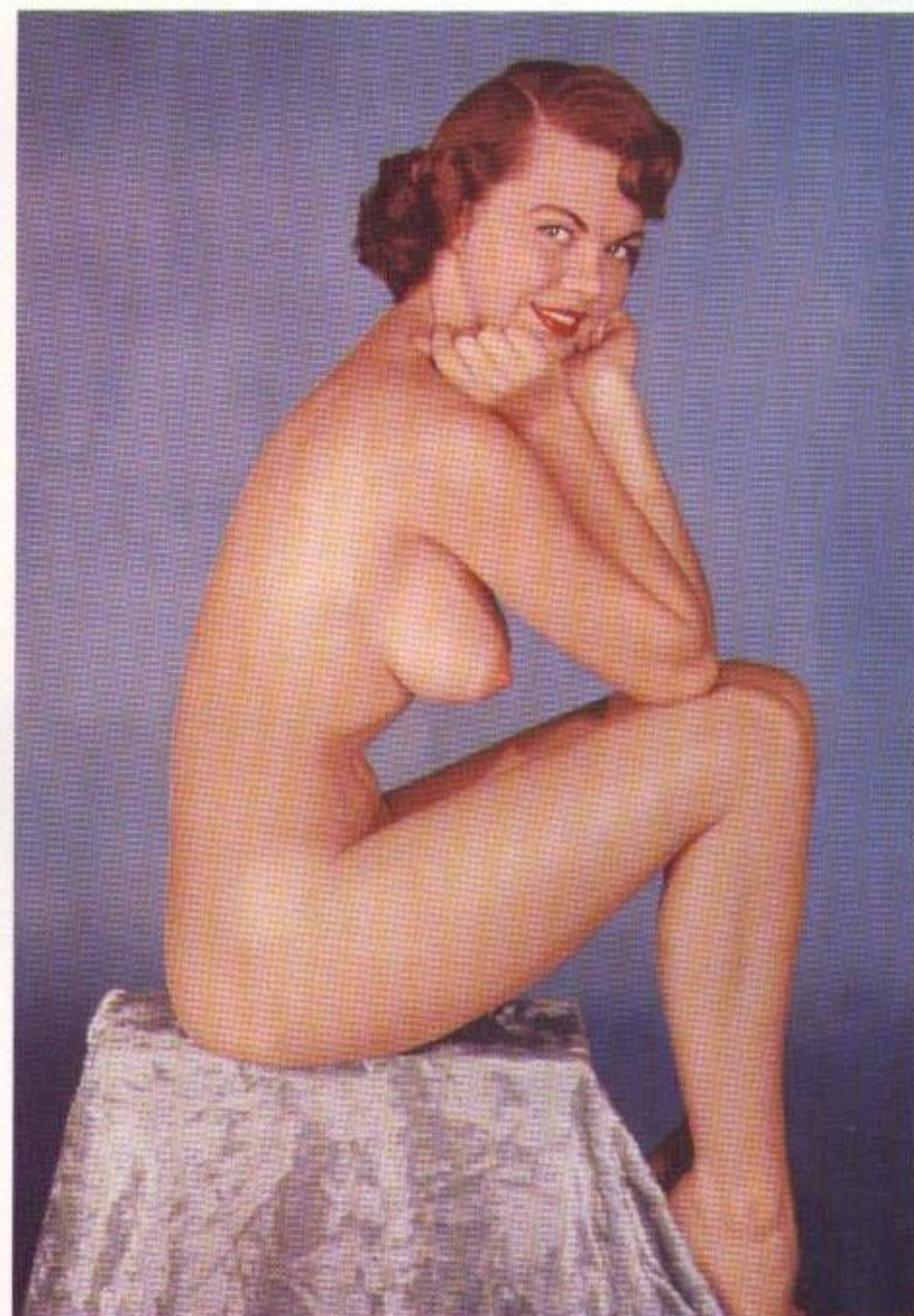


Miss September 1954
Jackie Rainbow

Hers was another classic calendar pin-up, but it didn't come from Baumgarth. A Carlyle Blackwell shot, it was purchased from Publix Pictorial Service. Little is known of the model herself.

Miss October 1954 *Madeline Castle*

During the Fifties and early Sixties, Madeline appeared as a pin-up in nearly 100 books and magazines. Her Playmate shot (below), by Jack and Jean Drebert, features an uninspired pose. As Hefner observes, "PLAYBOY's editors had yet to take an active hand in the Playmate photography."

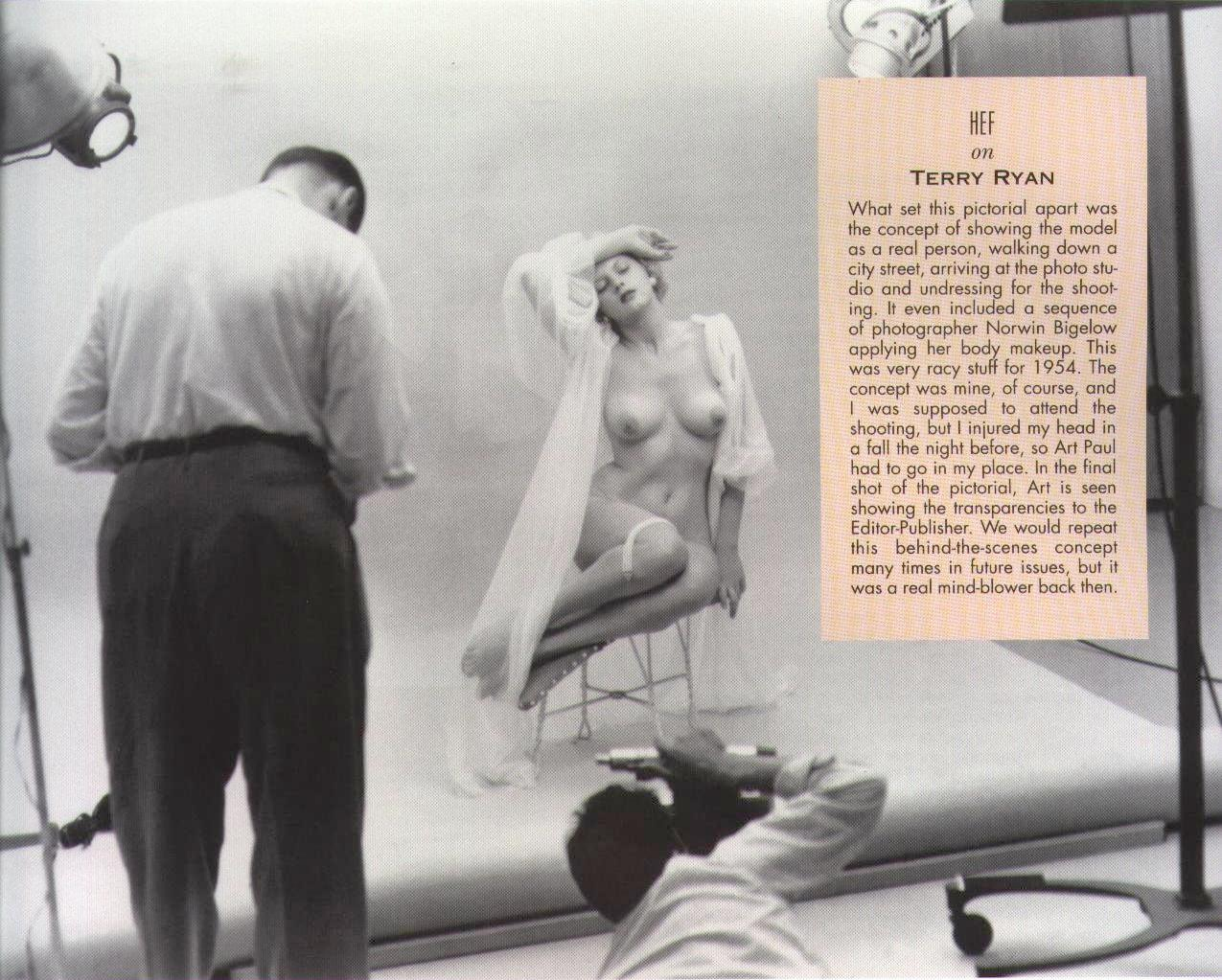


Miss November 1954

Diane Hunter

Diane (left and below), a Tempest Storm look-alike, was the first Playmate shot by Bruno Bernard, the famed Bernard of Hollywood.





HEF

on

TERRY RYAN

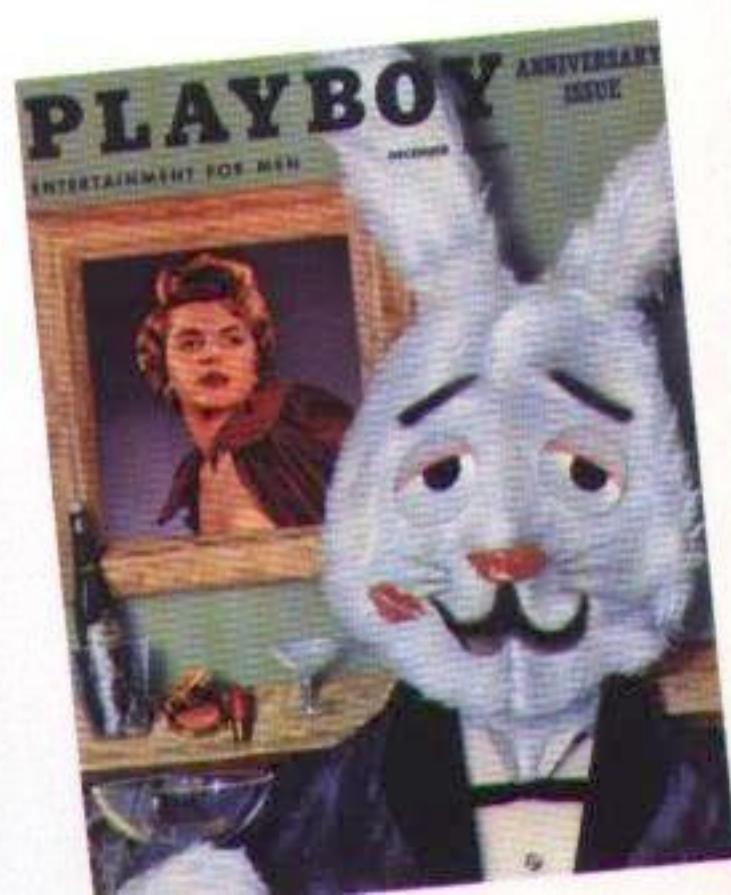
What set this pictorial apart was the concept of showing the model as a real person, walking down a city street, arriving at the photo studio and undressing for the shooting. It even included a sequence of photographer Norwin Bigelow applying her body makeup. This was very racy stuff for 1954. The concept was mine, of course, and I was supposed to attend the shooting, but I injured my head in a fall the night before, so Art Paul had to go in my place. In the final shot of the pictorial, Art is seen showing the transparencies to the Editor-Publisher. We would repeat this behind-the-scenes concept many times in future issues, but it was a real mind-blower back then.

Miss December 1954

Terry Ryan

Terry's was the first Playmate pictorial photographed directly under PLAYBOY supervision.

A six-page layout on *Photographing a Playmate* preceded the centerspread (right); Art Director Art Paul appears in the shooting, arranging lights and directing the photo session.



ART DIRECTOR

ART PAUL

on

TERRY RYAN

In one of the pictures I think I'm adjusting something on Terry's shoe. The guys at the magazine always kidded me about having a shoe fetish, and when I retired from PLAYBOY they presented me with a pair of shoes that were painted in silver and mounted on a plaque.



Miss January 1955

Bettie Page

Considered by many the greatest pin-up of all time, Bettie reigned supreme in the Fifties. Her image violated sexual taboos, and Senator Estes Kefauver's investigating committee tried to connect her with a supposed link between juvenile delinquency and pornography. Then, in 1957, she simply vanished. Her

38-year absence from public view—during which she was married and divorced three times and attended Bible schools in Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland, Oregon—only heightened her fame. Her fans today number in the millions. Saucy,

provocative, sometimes kinky, her photos influence fashion designers, artists, supermodels and photographers around the world. As authors Karen Essex and James L. Swanson put it in their 1996 book, *Bettie Page: The Life of a Pin-Up Legend*: "Bettie Page embodied the stereotypical wholesomeness of the Fifties and the hidden sexuality straining beneath the surface. She was the ultimate model of the postwar pin-up era—the girl next door, naughty and nice." Part of Bettie's mystique was that nobody

really knew her—or even how she spelled her name. Even during the height of her career, she didn't give interviews. She still doesn't, except on rare occasions and never in public, but she did agree to speak to the author of this book. Nearly 40 years after appearing as Miss January 1955, Bettie finally met Hugh

Hefner at a special Playboy Mansion West screening of *The Rocketeer*, the movie based on Dave Stevens' comic-book hero. Stevens had enshrined Bettie as the Rocketeer's girlfriend, helping to inspire a resurgence of interest in the Bettie phenomenon. Bettie doesn't actually remember posing for her centerfold, shot

by Miami photographer Bunny Yeager. "I haven't the faintest idea how many pictures Bunny took of me," she says. "She would shoot one after another before I even had time to pose. She must have wasted a lot of film. And I didn't know my picture was going to be in *PLAYBOY*. A friend called me up and told me I was the centerfold. I liked the picture. Everybody did." Bettie

was impressed by her visit to the Mansion. "I just loved his house. It looks like a big castle. I especially liked those peacocks he's got roaming around the backyard." These days Bettie, now 73, spends a lot of time watching television. "I'm a cable-TV addict. I watch old movies every night, practically. I read a lot and I do my exercises. I never used to have a problem with my weight, but then I swam a lot and I used to be a fiend

over dancing."

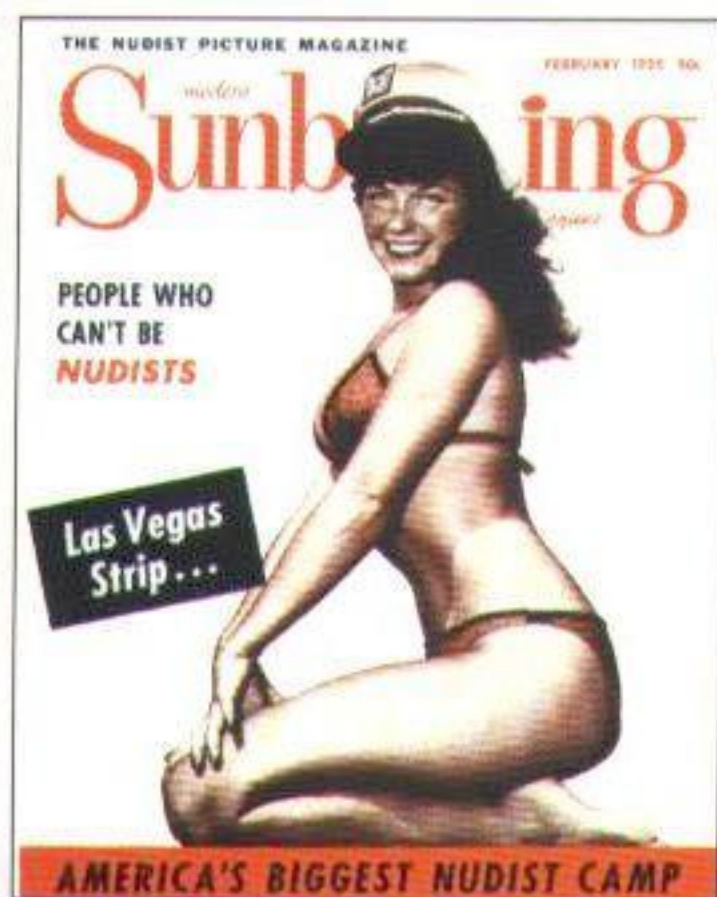
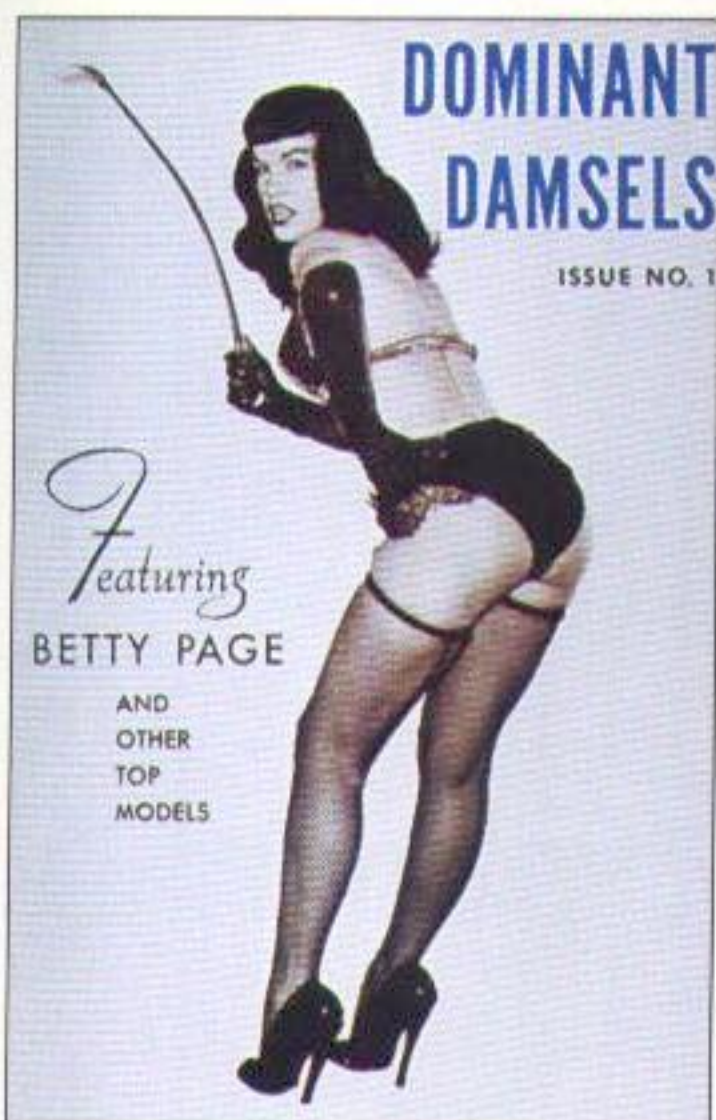


PHOTOGRAPHER

BUNNY YEAGER on BETTIE PAGE

I had posed Bettie with a Christmas tree as a stock photo to sell somewhere, maybe to a calendar company. Then I heard about a new men's magazine called *PLAYBOY* and decided to send it to them. Hugh Hefner answered back right away and offered me \$100 for the picture. I accepted and Bettie and I became a part of *PLAYBOY*'s early history.





HEF on BETTIE PAGE

Her first appearance in *PLAYBOY*—in a classic pin-up pose, with a nude Bettie wearing naught but a Santa Claus hat and a smile, while trimming a Christmas tree—is a milestone in the history of the magazine. She became, in time, an American icon, her winning smile and effervescent personality apparent in every pose. A kinky connection was added by Irving Klaw's spanking, fetish and bondage photos, which became part of the Bettie Page mystique; they were playful parodies that are now perceived as the early inspiration for Madonna's excursions into the realm of sexual perversion.

Miss February 1955

Jayne Mansfield

A relative unknown when she made her PLAYBOY debut as a nameless Miss February (right), Jayne was to become the magazine's favorite Valentine, appearing in four more February pictorials. (She had begun her modeling career as a University of Texas coed, inset.) Propelled by the PLAYBOY publicity, her career took off. Warner Bros. signed her up for minor parts in *Illegal* and *Pete Kelly's Blues*; that brought her to the attention of Jule Styne, who was casting a Broadway musical called *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?* Signed by Twentieth Century Fox, Jayne was given the full studio buildup and roles in such films as *The Girl Can't Help It* (below, with Tom Ewell) in hopes of capitalizing on its success with another blonde bombshell: Marilyn Monroe. Her third pictorial,



PHOTOGRAPHER

HAL ADAMS

on

JAYNE MANSFIELD

I first met Jayne when I did a Hartog Shirt shooting on her. She was not known at that time. I believe a man who was playing a detective on TV—Jack Webb, it was—brought her in. Anyway, when I shot her pictures for PLAYBOY she was very cooperative and very talkative. She told me, for example, that she was a fairly accomplished violinist and that she had majored in psychology in college. All in all, she was delightful.





done with Fox's enthusiastic endorsement, reflected how popular PLAYBOY had become in three short years. Jayne's June 1963 layout, *The Nudest Jayne Mansfield*, earned Hefner an obscenity bust from the Chicago police. A shot of her in bed with a fully clothed Tommy Noonan from the movie *Promises, Promises!* (above) irked local bigwigs. The jury voted seven to five for acquittal. Even after her premature death in a 1967 car wreck, Jayne remained part of PLAYBOY's legend. Her daughter, Jayne Marie Mansfield, posed for the magazine in July 1976. Below left, Jayne out-cleavaged Sophia Loren in 1957. Below right, Jayne and her husband, Mickey Hargitay, at a party with Hefner.



PHOTOGRAPHER

ALICE GOWLAND

on

JAYNE MANSFIELD

When we photographed Jayne, Peter thought she was terrific, but I said to him, "That girl's going to go nowhere." I thought she was just overwhelmingly sexy—too sexy. Shows you what I knew.

Miss April 1955 *Marilyn Waltz*

Marilyn's second PLAYBOY shooting (right) was by Hal Adams (note the trademark leotards and pipe he favored). "It was an experiment in lighting, but the pose is fairly consistent with my other Playmate shots," he says. Over a period of years, Marilyn posed for many different photographers, sometimes under the name of Miriam Knapp.

Miss May 1955 *Marguerite Empey*

Her mother was an actress, her father, Guy Empey, a best-selling author, and young Marguerite (below) studied ballet. She was discovered as a model by Tom Kelley of Marilyn Monroe calendar fame and was photographed by every leading photographer in the business. She married a film technician, Joe Webber, and the couple became dedicated nudists. It was under her married name, Diane Webber, that she was featured by author Gay Talese in his book *Thy Neighbor's Wife*. She also appeared in a number of films, including *The Witchmaker* and *The Trial of Billy Jack*, in which she played her real-life role as a belly-dancing instructor.

PHOTOGRAPHER

PETER GOWLAND *on* MARGUERITE EMPEY

She was phenomenal. Out of our hundred best pictures, hers come up about eight times. The amazing thing is that she was very short. But she had this wonderful face and this dramatic way of expressing herself, so that when she'd point her foot down she'd be eight feet tall. She ate healthy food, not like the models today, who keep themselves so gaunt.



AUTHOR GAY TALESE *on* MARGUERITE EMPEY

I first heard of her while researching my book on American sexual mores, *Thy Neighbor's Wife*. She was elusive, but I was finally granted an interview at her home in Malibu. I was rather disappointed; she projected none of the free-spirited, erotic appeal of her pin-up photographs. To her, of course, posing in the nude was an expression of art. I did see her perform, though, and as a belly dancer she was very convincing.





Miss June 1955 *Eve Meyer*

Eve's was the first Playmate shot to order for the magazine from a pencil-sketched layout supplied to photographer Russ Meyer, her husband, by PLAYBOY Art Director Arthur Paul. In addition to the centerfold, Eve was given four additional pages and identified by name. Later in his career, Russ Meyer would turn to moviemaking, often with Eve as his producer. Russ' satirical flair, his way with a camera and his penchant for casting astonishingly endowed leading ladies would make him an erotic auteur of legendary proportions. Eve reappeared in the March 1956 pictorial, *An Evening With Eve*, also shot by her husband, and continued to distribute his films even after their divorce. Eve lost her life in history's worst aviation disaster, the 1977 collision of two jets on a runway in the Canary Islands that claimed 578 victims.

PHOTOGRAPHER AND FILMMAKER

RUSS MEYER in "*The Observer of London*" on EVE MEYER

I was the usual rat. I ran off and found another pair of boobs, brought her to the States for *Mudhoney*, a movie Eve was financing, and Eve found out. That was not a nice thing to do. Eve was very upset. We divorced and then Eve was killed in a plane crash. I felt terrible. It had been a great love affair, a great marriage.

Miss July & December 1955

Janet Pilgrim


"How I ended up being Janet Pilgrim, don't ask me. It just happened." Miss July 1955, December 1955 (see covers, right) and October 1956 is speaking from her home in Connecticut. "Posing for the centerfold was a big step for me to take," she continues. "The pictures are very modest by today's standards, but back then they weren't." Today the girl next door has become the grandmother next door. "I've been married for 40 years and have two daughters of whom I'm very proud. The younger one, who recently got married, is an accountant. The older one, a graduate of Syracuse University, teaches nursing in New York State. And she and her husband have a boy and a girl. While the girls were growing up, I was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader and a camp counselor for a few years. I was one of the few who could get a campfire going when it rained. The most significant thing I did otherwise was going back to school at the age of 46. I had never gone to college, and I had always wanted to be a nurse. So I went to nursing school at Norwalk Community College and graduated as an RN in 1984 [inset]. Ultimately I ended up working with geriatric patients and victims of Alzheimer's disease. I just loved those old people; the rewards I got from that, the hugs and kisses, were incredible. Then my husband retired a couple of years ago, so I kind of retired, too. I've reverted back, I guess, to being a traditional grandmother. I crochet a lot and I do quilting and sewing. I'm 62 years old, but I wear my hair the same and I'm in pretty good shape, if I do say so myself." And how do those daughters feel about their mother's being the archetypal Playmate? "I know they're very proud that their mother is Janet Pilgrim. Having been in the centerfold three times isn't likely to happen again." Below, Janet with Playmate Vicki McCarty and Hef at 1979's Playmate Reunion.



HEF on JANET PILGRIM

The copy accompanying Janet's pictorial, written by you know who, read: "We suppose it's natural to think of pulchritudinous Playmates as existing in a world apart. Actually, potential Playmates are all around you: the new secretary at your office, the doe-eyed beauty who sat opposite you at lunch yesterday, the girl who sells you shirts and ties at your favorite store. We found Miss July in our own circulation department." And there it was—the complete Playmate centerfold concept full-blown. She was the girl next door with her clothes off. And what a revolution that notion would inspire. Janet's real name was Charlaire Karalus, and we were dating at the time (right). I chose the name Janet Pilgrim because I liked its puritanical connotations. The guy in the background of the centerfold was, of course, me in formal attire.





ART DIRECTOR

ART PAUL *on*
JANET PILGRIM

I thought having someone from our office pose as a Playmate was not a very good idea. I really thought it was too close to home, that she would be embarrassed. Naturally, it turned out to be another of Hef's strokes of genius. Janet is probably the most popular Playmate in history.



Miss August 1955 *Pat Lawler*

She was the last Playmate to be shot in an obvious studio session against a flat background. The photo (left) was taken by Hal Adams—note his signature pipe in the foreground—and is similar to one he took of Jayne Mansfield. In fact, he shot both women seated on the same stool.

Miss September 1955

Anne Fleming

Anne's Playmate photo (right) is one of the few shots that doesn't offer direct eye contact with the reader. Photographer Hal Adams actually shot it both ways, but Hefner picked the more unusual—and provocative—pose. The alternate, in which Anne looks at the camera but there is no male presence suggesting an intimate encounter about to occur, appears in the January 1956 feature *The First Two Dozen Playmates*.

HEF *on*

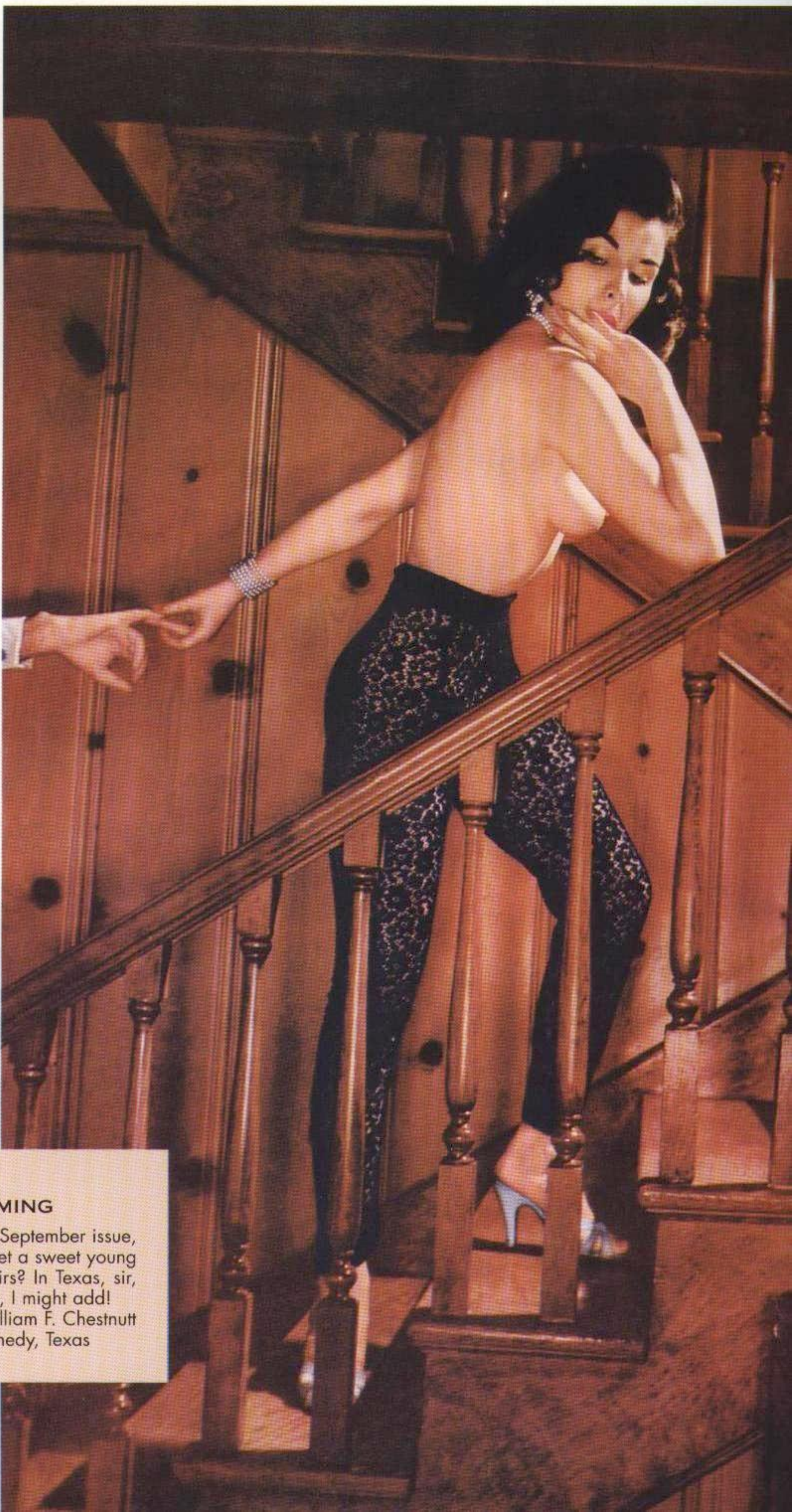
ANNE FLEMING'S CENTERFOLD

The notion of presenting nudity in an erotic context was quite daring at the time. Photo magazines published nudity under the pretext of art. I hated this pretense, and we presented our centerfolds as intentionally playful women, capable of provoking—and experiencing—erotic desire.

A READER *on* ANNE FLEMING

In regard to your Playmate of the Month, September issue, what manner of man is that, who would let a sweet young girl like Anne Fleming walk up those stairs? In Texas, sir, she would be carried up—three at a time, I might add!

William F. Chestnutt
Kenedy, Texas



Miss October 1955 *Jean Moorehead*

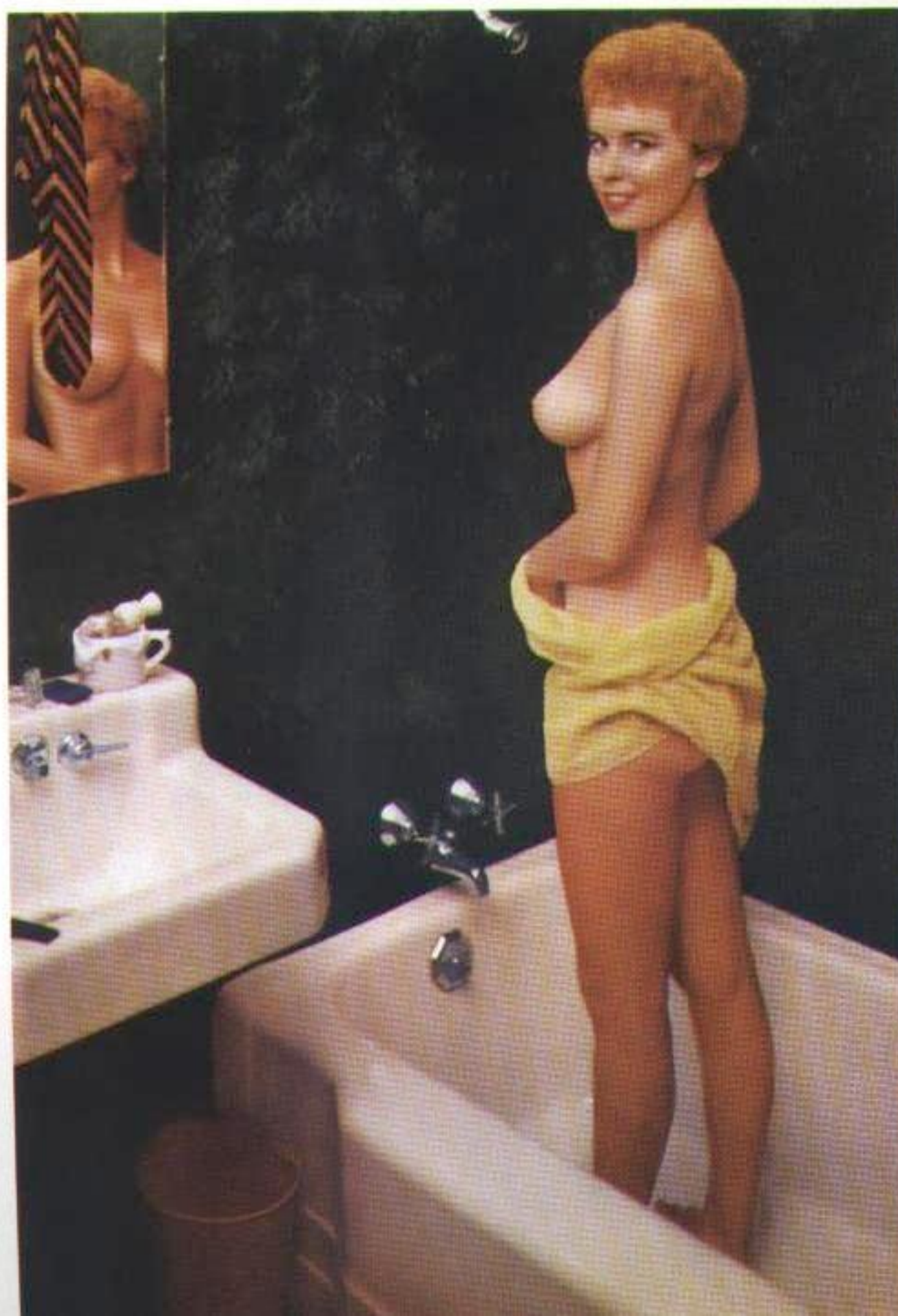
Photographer Hal Adams provided two models, each shot in the same collegiate dressing-room setting, for this month's Playmate. Hefner decided to run them both in a four-page pictorial, with the reader asked to guess which one would be chosen as Miss October. "Both Jean and Jonnie Nicely were deserving," said Hef, "but we picked Jean [right and below] for this issue." Jonnie appeared as the centerfold in August of the following year. Also in 1956, Jean would star as spoiled rich girl Paula Parkins in *The Violent Years*, scripted by the inimitable Ed (Plan 9 from Outer Space) Wood.



PHOTOGRAPHER

HAL ADAMS on JEAN MOOREHEAD

Jean was a very, very nice girl I'd used in other shootings. We shot two situations, one with her and one with Jonnie Nicely, to give the readers a chance to express their preference. Jean was on a TV program and I told her if she would just wave to me during the show, I'd know she was saying hello to me, and she did that. I can't recall what the program was, but I do remember that she waved.



Miss November 1955 *Barbara Cameron*

Barbara (left) was introduced to readers as someone PLAYBOY had come upon in a hi-fi shop, as Hollywood's Lana Turner had been discovered at a drugstore soda fountain. In reality, Barbara was a flight attendant who was dating PLAYBOY Promotion Director Victor Lowmes at the same time Hef was dating Janet Pilgrim. She also posed for the cover of this issue (below right).

HEF on

BARBARA CAMERON

Barbara's Playmate photo was shot in my own rather cramped office-apartment at 11 East Superior Street, on the top floor of the four-story brownstone that functioned as PLAYBOY's headquarters. The striped tie that hangs over the mirror, cunningly concealing her nipple, is mine.





Miss January 1956 *Lynn Turner*

Lynn, a 20-year-old from California, was a professional figure model during the latter half of the decade, appearing in *Frolic*, *Jest*, *Modern Man Quarterly*, *Monsieur* and other men's magazines.

PHOTOGRAPHER

PETER GOWLAND

on

LYNN TURNER

Lynn was the first Playmate Alice and I shot on assignment for PLAYBOY. At the time, the magazine paid \$100 for a shooting, and that included the model's fee and the film as well as our time. Of course, \$100 went a lot farther back then.

Miss February 1956

Marguerite Empey

This was Marguerite's second centerfold appearance (right), and her photographer this time was Russ Meyer (inset, with Meyer). He had submitted the unsolicited photos of a model named Diane Webber; PLAYBOY purchased them before it was realized that Diane was also the magazine's own Miss May 1955, Marguerite Empey, and that Webber was her married name.

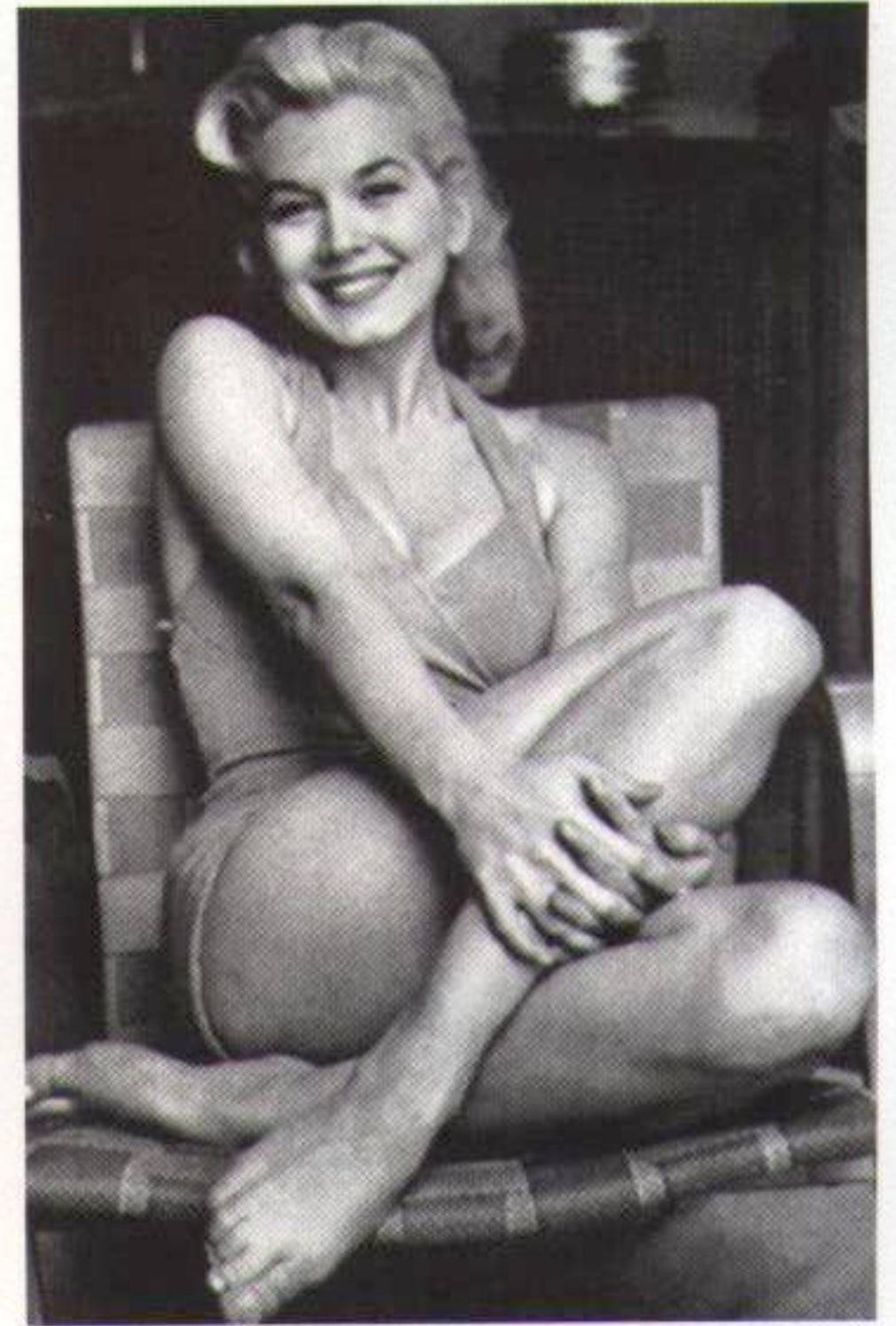
At the time she posed for Meyer, she was pregnant with her son John. As Diane Webber, she founded the Perfumes dance troupe at California's Renaissance Pleasure Faire in 1961. She continues to teach belly dancing in Los Angeles.



Miss March 1956

Marian Stafford

PLAYBOY's first three-page centerfold (left), shot by New York photographer Ruth Sondak, featured actress Marian Stafford, who has been characterized as the Vanna White of her day. Marian, who also appeared on the issue's cover, was Jan Murray's "Pirate Girl" assistant on the *Treasure Hunt* program, which ran on ABC and NBC from 1956 through 1958.



Miss April 1956

Rusty Fisher

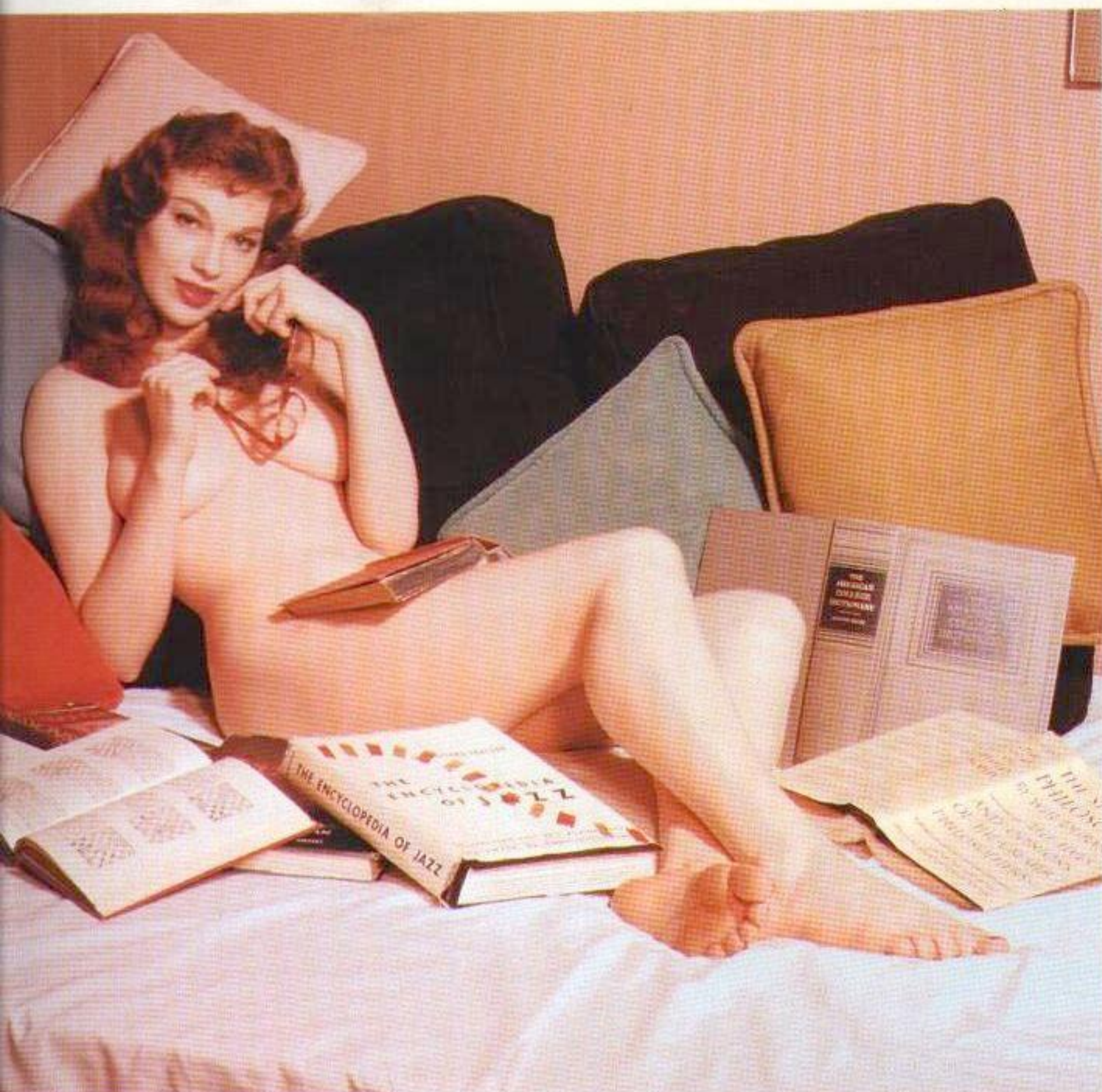
Los Angeles photographer Sam Wu shot this centerfold of Rusty (left), who may have been trying to shed her alternate personae of Rusty Williams and Donna Fisher, under which names she posed for some three dozen men's magazines. That's one conclusion to draw from her Playmate copy, purportedly written by Rusty herself, describing Miss April as "a reel mountain gal, yes sir" who "also sings perty and ant a bad dancer nether."



Miss May 1956

Marion Scott

German-born Marion (above) came to America with her parents after World War Two and became a model in New York. By the time she came to PLAYBOY's attention at the age of 23, she had developed a promising career as a fashion mannequin and cover girl for detective magazines. Photographer Herman Leonard shot her in a spoof of the iceman-meets-lonely-housewife premise popular in ribald humor and films of the Thirties. Leonard himself appears in the black-and-white picture story, applying body makeup to Marion in the manner of the Terry Ryan pictorial of December 1954.



Miss June 1956

Gloria Walker

A chess theme ran through the entire June issue, which featured a history of the game, a living chess set, tips on improving one's technique, even a piece of fiction titled *Last Gambit*. Not surprisingly, 18-year-old telephone operator Gloria Walker (above), despite her lack of familiarity with the game, had to confront a chessboard on her centerfold. At right, another look at Gloria.



Miss July 1956

Alice Denham

PLAYBOY's first Phi Beta Kappa Playmate (above) boasts an additional distinction: She's the only one ever to have had a short story published in the same issue as her centerfold. (At left, she looks over some promo material with Hefner.) She earned a master's degree from the University of Rochester and taught creative writing at the City University of New York from 1970 through 1980 and fiction at the University of Toronto summer writers workshop from 1968 to 1978. She has written many more short stories and two sexually explicit novels, *My Darling from the Lions* and *Amo*. Today Alice (inset) is married to tax accountant John Mueller, and they maintain homes in Manhattan and Mexico.



Miss August 1956

Jonnie Nicely

The last place you'd expect to encounter a Playmate is inside a B-1 bomber under construction. But that's where Jonnie Nicely worked for a dozen years. "I was an electrical installation mechanic for Rockwell International in Palmdale, California, working the swing shift," she says. Raised in Arkansas and Oklahoma, Jonnie was an orphan by the age of six and was raised by a sister. At 16, she struck out for California on her own, working as a seamstress and carhop. "I was 18 when I met a

photographer by the name of Lou Furia at a dance at the Inglewood Recreation Center," she recalls.

"He wanted to know if I'd like to model. Then I got a call from Hal Adams to do a Hartog ad, and sometime after that he asked me if I wanted to pose for PLAYBOY. He shot a centerfold that was supposed to be in the October 1955 issue [below], but Hef wanted some changes in the pictures and I was out of the country, traveling with a girlie show in Canada. While I was gone, Hal shot more pictures of Jean Moorehead and she got the October centerfold. I was featured in her picture story. When I got back, I phoned Hal and he said, 'Where have you been?' He told me what had happened, and I ended up posing for him twice again before we got a picture Hef liked." Jonnie is now in touch with a number of Playmates and is an active participant in the Glamourcon pin-up conventions (inset). She has been married three times, lives near Edwards Air Force Base and revels in her Playmate past. "When people find out I was in PLAYBOY, they treat me like royalty."



PHOTOGRAPHER

HAL ADAMS

on

JONNIE NICELY

I did a lot of fashion photography, and Jonnie came from that background. The leotard pants were something I kept around the studio. Even the bottom of the bust was pretty erotic for that time. When Jonnie came a few months ago to the photography class I teach, she put her arms around me and kissed me and told the students what a gentleman I was. I was almost tempted to say, "Are you sure you've got the right person?"



Miss October 1956
Janet Pilgrim

Her final centerfold appearance, *Janet's Date at Dartmouth*, demonstrated how popular the Playmates had become by the third year of PLAYBOY's publication.

Students at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire had asked for the magazine's help in producing a variety show based on PLAYBOY. As part of the publicity surrounding the show, Janet was invited to visit the campus and appear in the program. On her arrival, Janet received a warm welcome. The campus paper, *The Dartmouth*, ran an "I would like Janet Pilgrim for my Playmate because..." contest. The college faculty held a tea in her honor. She spoke on WGDS, the campus radio station, was interviewed by the entire staff of *The Dartmouth* and spoke to students from the stage of a lecture hall. From Janet's day on, Playmates have often appeared in special pictorials, but have never been granted return engagements in the centerfold.





Miss November 1956 *Betty Blue*

"I've been a nudist most of my life," says Betty (right). "Before I posed for PLAYBOY, I was a dancer at El Rancho. With those skimpy costumes we wore, if you wanted to get any sun at all you had to be a nudist. But I've never had any feeling of shame about my body." Betty posed, uncredited, for subsequent PLAYBOY features. Now 64, Betty long ago dropped out of showbiz. "My boobs still stand up, though [inset]."



Miss September 1956

Elsa Sorensen

PLAYBOY christened this former Miss Denmark (far left) its *Danish Pastry*, headlining a picture story that portrayed her on a supermarket shopping spree with singer Guy Mitchell of *Heartaches by the Numbers* fame. (At near left, Alice Gowland adjusts her bouquet.) Elsa also modeled under the names Dane Arden and Alisa Davis before marrying Mitchell; they later divorced. Elsa reportedly remarried and moved to Florida.



PHOTOGRAPHER

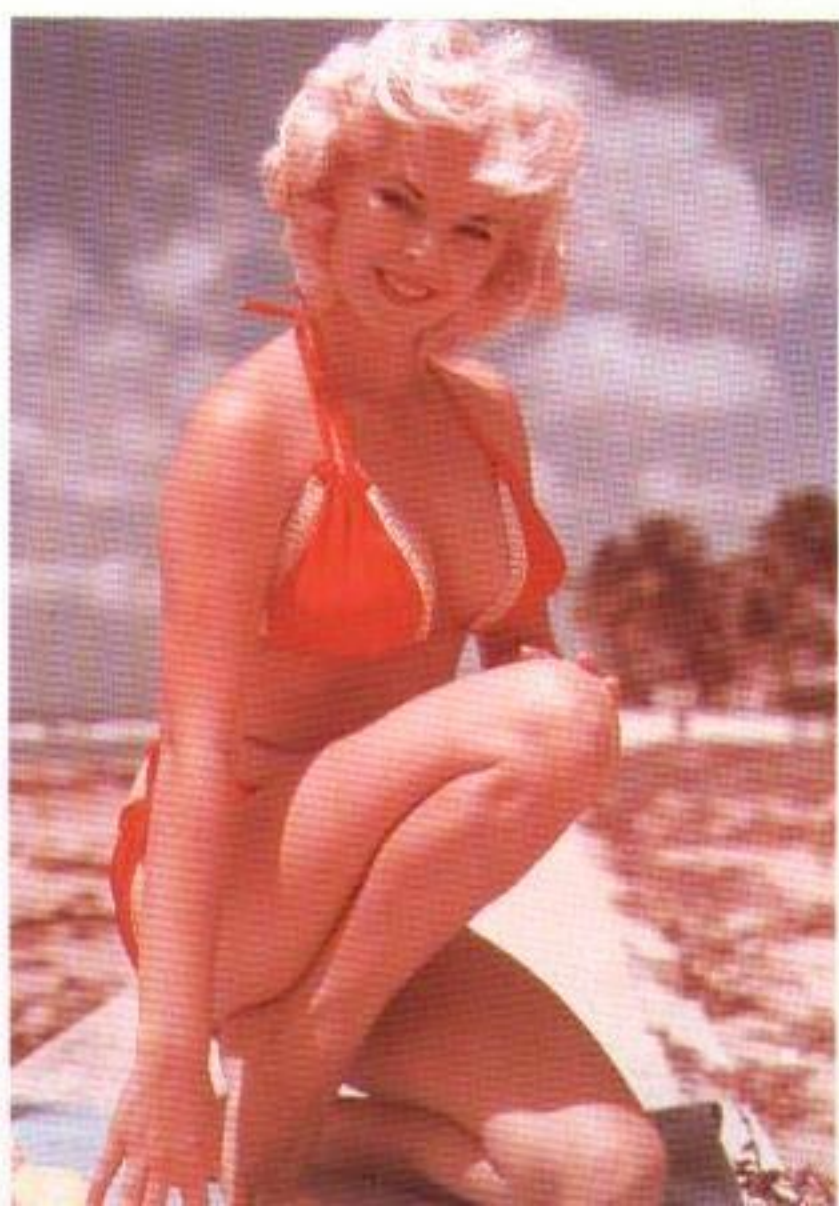
HAL ADAMS on BETTY BLUE

I remember Betty quite well. In her Playmate photo, a man is lighting her cigarette. He was actually an art director from another account. After her center-fold was published, a famous Hollywood photographer named Laszlo Willinger, whom I'd never met before, stopped by my studio. He said he wanted to know how I had made Betty look so virginal.

Miss December 1956

Lisa Winters

"To this day," says photographer Bunny Yeager, "men still ask me about Lisa. They remember her pure, flawless beauty." One of the most popular Playmates of the Fifties, 19-year-old Lisa was spotted by Yeager boarding a bus in downtown Miami. Bunny finally persuaded Lisa to pose for the magazine. She said she was much too shy to work with a male photographer. Lisa (with Hefner at the Miami Playboy Club, below center) appeared on a PLAYBOY cover (below) and several special pictorials (bottom). She currently lives in Texas.





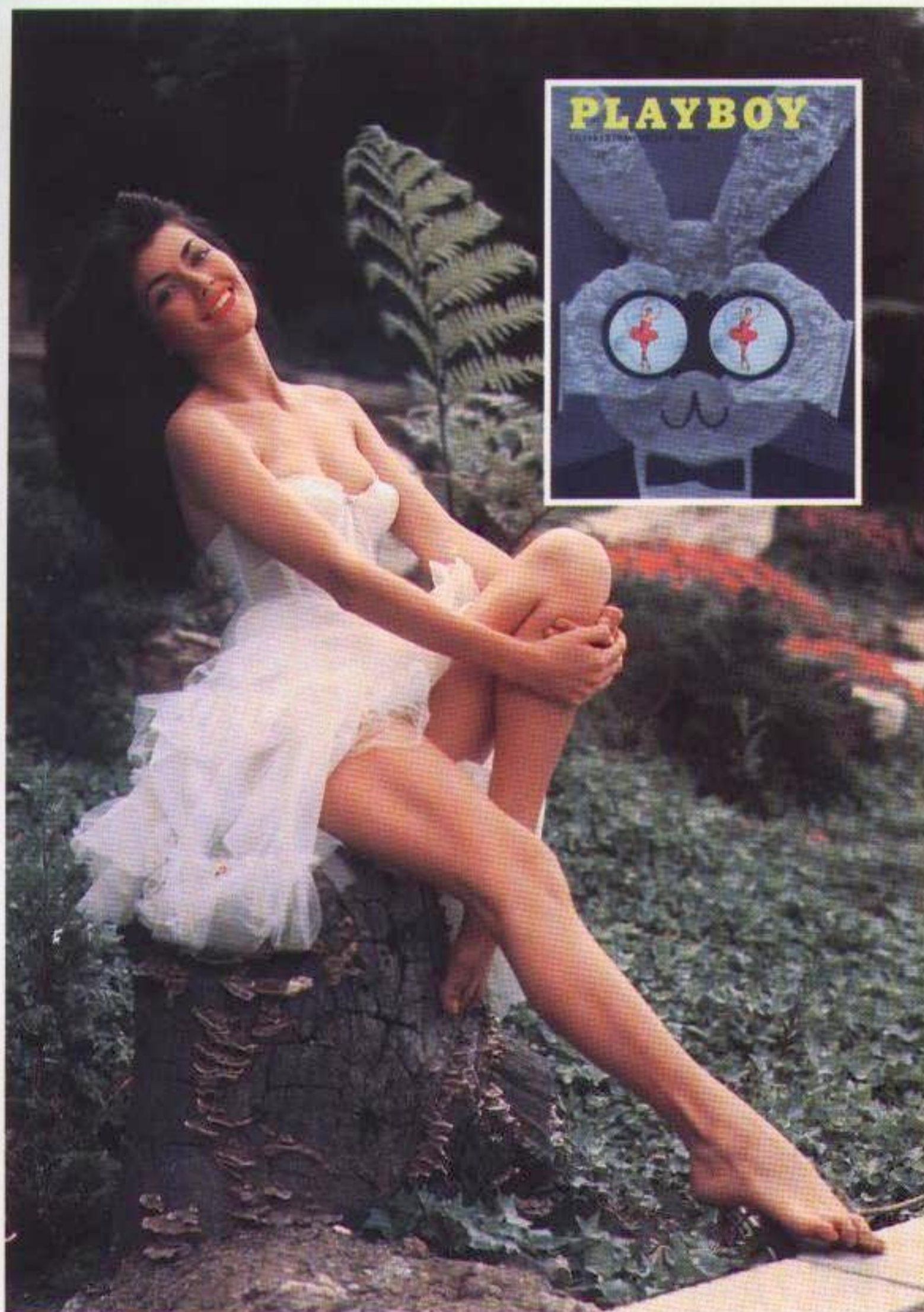
Miss January 1957 *June Blair*

She had heard that PLAYBOY had rejected the modest shots photographer Hal Adams had taken of her, so June (above) was surprised when she became Miss January. "That got me my first lead in a picture, but that was so long ago!" says June, who prefers today to be described as "a Christian woman and a Christian mother" of two sons. The public still remembers her real-life role as David Nelson's wife on *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. David and June are no longer married, and the series ended in 1966, but it enjoyed a long life in syndication.



Miss February 1957 *Sally Todd*

PLAYBOY readers got their first glimpse of Sally in the June 1956 pictorial *Champagne Flight to Vegas*, which chronicled a round-trip flight from L.A. to Las Vegas. The feature would be charming, the editors reasoned, if it had started a bit earlier, while she was still dressing for the trip. That was the concept of the centerfold (left) shot by Ed DeLong and Dave Sutton (above).



Miss March 1957 *Sandra Edwards*

Sandra (above) was introduced in her Playmate story and cover collage (inset, above) by artist Bea Paul—then the wife of the magazine's Art Director—as a budding ballerina.



Miss April 1957 *Gloria Windsor*

Her Playmate story reported that PLAYBOY scouts had found Gloria (above) working in a Los Angeles lingerie shop and had talked her into posing for the centerfold over her lunch hour. In reality, of course, such a pictorial takes days, often weeks, to shoot, but the fact that a Playmate had to deal with the real-life time constraints of a full-time job added to her girl-next-door appeal.



Miss May 1957 *Dawn Richard*

Her PLAYBOY copywriter was apparently off on a flight of fancy when he penned Dawn's story, which includes nary a word of information about the comely brunette, quoting instead from poetry, novels and movie musicals. Dawn herself (left) was real, setting sail in the 1957 pictorial *Playboy's Yacht Party*.

Miss June 1957

Carrie Radison

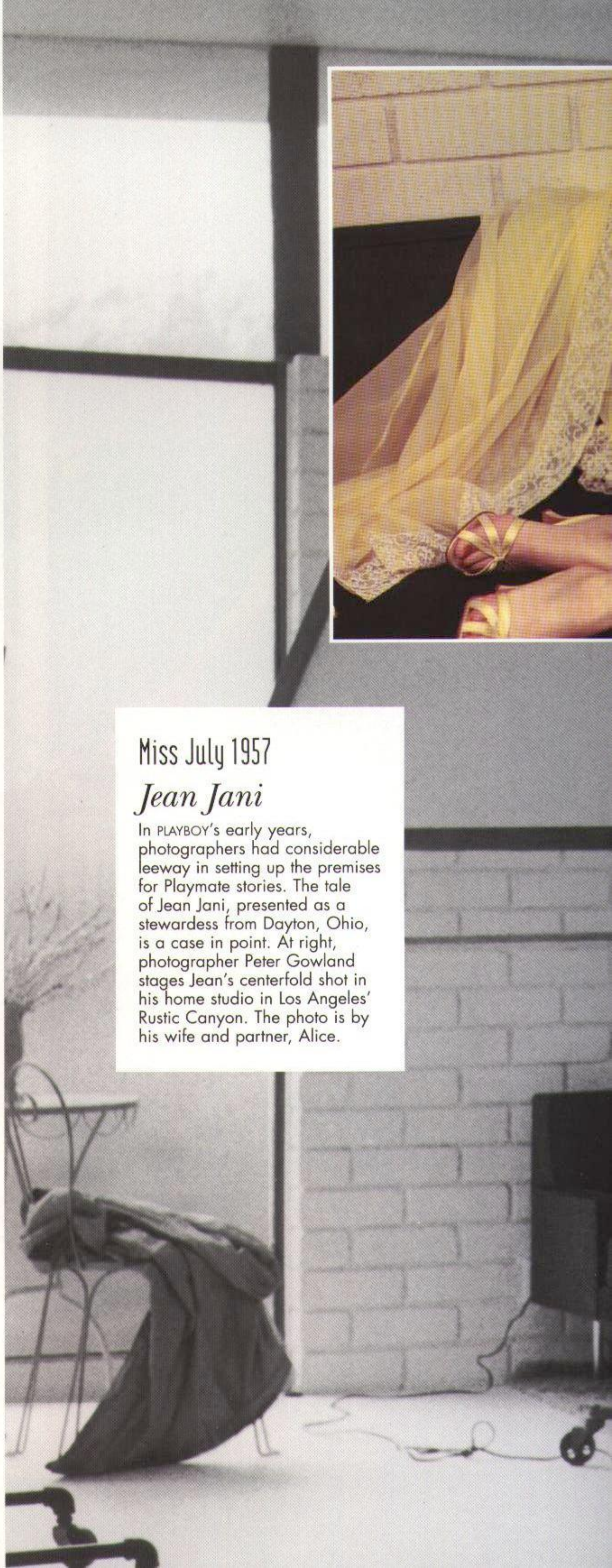
Carrie's PLAYBOY pictorial (below) portrayed her as "a fair filly from Philly" who was trying her luck on Broadway. Her mother had posed for cartoonist Milton Caniff as the model for the Dragon Lady in *Terry and the Pirates*, and a younger sister became one of the lead dancers on *Shindig*, a rock-and-roll TV show of the mid-Sixties. Carrie herself had been acting since her debut at the age of ten, and sang in the chorus of the New York City Center Opera Company when she was only 13. She became one of the original Bunnies at the Playboy Club.



Miss July 1957

Jean Jani

In PLAYBOY's early years, photographers had considerable leeway in setting up the premises for Playmate stories. The tale of Jean Jani, presented as a stewardess from Dayton, Ohio, is a case in point. At right, photographer Peter Gowland stages Jean's centerfold shot in his home studio in Los Angeles' Rustic Canyon. The photo is by his wife and partner, Alice.

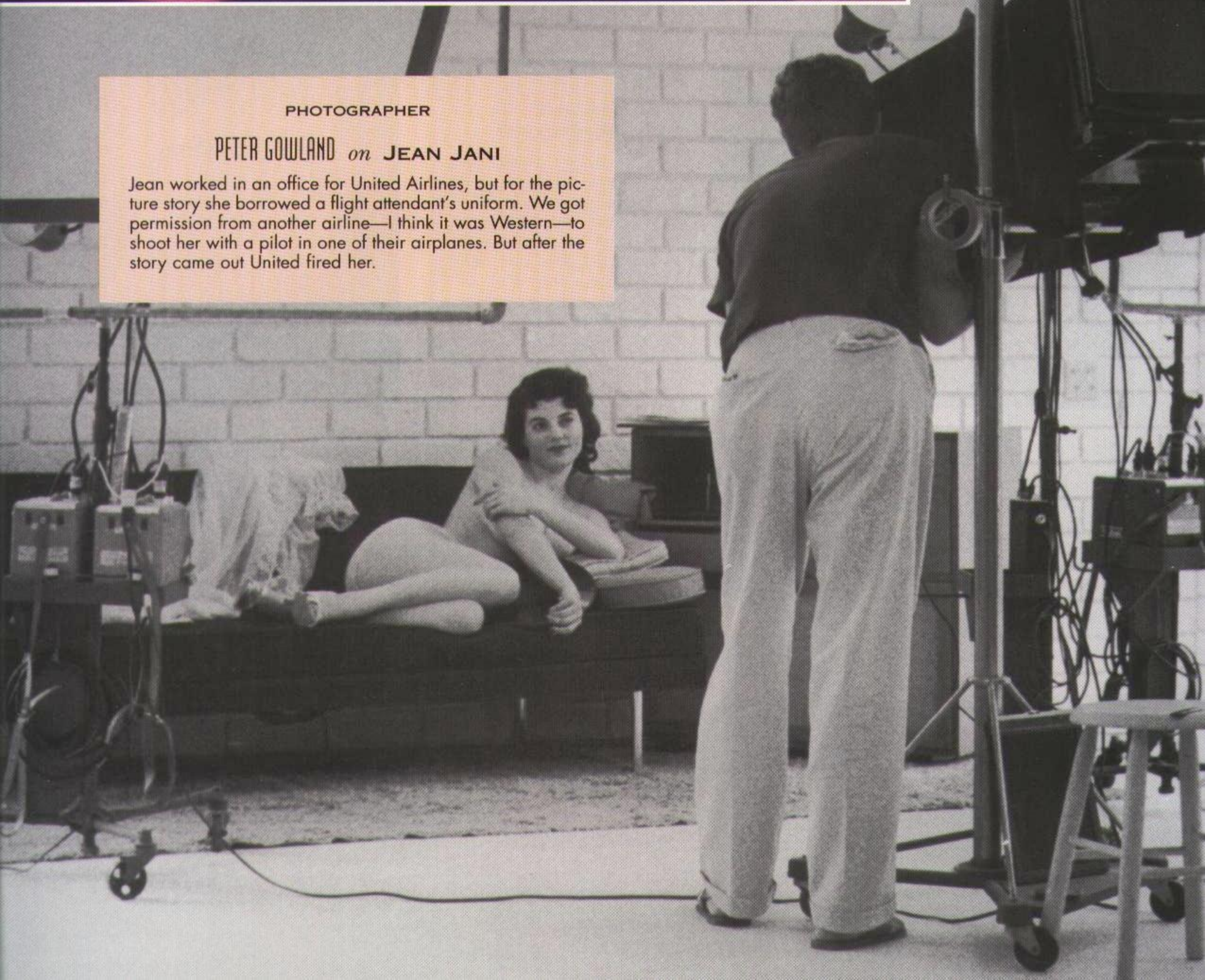




PHOTOGRAPHER

PETER GOWLAND *on* JEAN JANI

Jean worked in an office for United Airlines, but for the picture story she borrowed a flight attendant's uniform. We got permission from another airline—I think it was Western—to shoot her with a pilot in one of their airplanes. But after the story came out United fired her.



Miss August 1957
Dolores Donlon

In the alliterative style of the period, a PLAYBOY staffer wrote breathlessly of Dolores (right): "This lithe, long-limbed, languorous, luscious blonde drives a snow-white T-Bird, a baby-blue Cad and lives in a two-story Spanish-style house with a swimming pool and 20 rooms (eight of them bedrooms). But does all this make her any less of a girl next door? Not if you happen to live next door to her in Beverly Hills, California."



Miss September 1957

Jacquelyn Prescott

An ad salesman for the magazine noticed Jacquelyn (below) working in an agency as the "private secretary, trouble-shooter, human tickler file and all-round girl Friday" for an account executive. He sold the exec on advertising in PLAYBOY—and Jackie on posing for its centerfold.



PHOTOGRAPHER

MARIO CASILLI

on

JACQUELYN
PRESCOTT

You always remember your first Playmate, and Jackie was mine (right). I only did one eight-by-ten shot on her, and it was perfect. I gave her half my fee, and one of the other photographers complained that I paid her too much or too little, I can't recall which.



Miss October 1957

*Colleen
Farrington*

New York photographer Peter Basch submitted test shots of a Manhattan-based brunette model. By the time he got the OK from the magazine's Chicago headquarters, Colleen had bleached her hair blonde for a television show. In a puckish mood, Basch photographed Miss October (right) as blonde, brunette and redhead. "On these pages," read her Playmate copy, "Colleen is available in three smart decorator colors. Which do you prefer?"



HEF on

COLLEEN FARRINGTON

What was more disconcerting than Colleen's changing hair colors was the way in which she blossomed in subsequent shootings: She was pregnant. The story is all the more interesting because the baby grew up to be actress Diane Lane, who made her debut—and the cover of *Time* magazine—with 1979's *A Little Romance*, starring Laurence Olivier. She has a long list of credits, including *The Cotton Club*, *Knight Moves* and *Chaplin*, as well as the TV miniseries *Lonesome Dove*.



Miss November 1957 *Marlene Callahan*

She was the girl behind the door (left); now she's the woman behind the camera. Marlene took her first photograph—a box-camera snapshot of her sister—at the age of four. Her book *Playing Chess with the Heart*, a series of portraits of ceramic artist Beatrice Wood in celebration of her 100th year, hit the Southern California Booksellers best-seller list in April 1996. "I never had contact with PLAYBOY since I did the centerfold, which was the only one that photographer Vivienne Lapham ever did," says Marlene today (below right). "When I heard about the search for Playmates, I called your Playmate hotline and ended up with an invitation to Stacy Sanches' Playmate of the Year luncheon. I introduced myself to Mr. Hefner afterward and was really surprised when he said, 'Oh, yes, you're the one who posed behind the door with the DO NOT DISTURB sign.' What a memory he has!"



Miss December 1957

Linda Vargas

New York photographer Herbert Melford shot Linda's centerfold (below), but at the time she actually lived in Chicago, where PLAYBOY house photographer Mike Shea shot the black-and-white photos—Linda walking on a fog-shrouded bridge, listening to the piano player at the Black Orchid nightclub—that were included in her picture story.

HEF on LINDA VARGAS

Linda was one of a circle of friends who hung out on Chicago's Near North Side. She was very savvy and street smart. In 1958 she moved out to Hollywood, where she had a small part in Jerry Wald's *The Best of Everything*, and then she simply disappeared.



Miss January 1958

Elizabeth Ann Roberts

Elizabeth, a Chicago-area native, was a college student when she posed for PLAYBOY. Despite the fact that her mother had given written permission, the shooting got Hefner into trouble.

Chicago officials, looking for something to pin on the upstart Editor-Publisher, tried to charge him with contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence, but thereafter PLAYBOY scrupulously avoided publishing nude photos of anyone under the age of 18. Elizabeth Ann, who became a Bunny at the Chicago Playboy Club in the Sixties, was last sighted in the late Eighties—by Photo Director Gary Cole—working in a restaurant on the city's Gold Coast.



Miss February 1958

Cheryl Kubert

The cover girl of PLAYBOY's 1959 Playmate Calendar, Cheryl (right) was the second centerfold photographed by Mario Casilli. Her story had a skiing theme, described more with style than with substance in effusive copy that read: "All that really matters is that she makes the cutest sitzmarks we've seen on any ski slope." Cheryl subsequently lost contact with PLAYBOY and was reported to have committed suicide at the age of 50.



Miss March 1958 *Zahra Norbo*

A former Miss Sweden, Zahra (below) had been approached by other photographers seeking nude poses, but turned down all such requests—until her PLAYBOY shooting with photographer Tom Caffrey, his only centerfold ever. Hefner felt it added to a Playmate's appeal if she hadn't been previously published elsewhere. When Zahra made a guest appearance on *You Bet Your Life*, host Groucho Marx was so impressed he lost his place in the script.



Miss April 1958 *Felicia Atkins*

This issue of the magazine sported a Las Vegas theme, complete with a pictorial on the Minsky Burlesque at the Dunes. Vegas showgirls, not being your usual girls next door, were seldom featured as PLAYBOY Playmates, but Felicia (left)—a popular showstopper at the Tropicana—was chosen as centerfold to carry out that month's motif.

Miss May 1958

Lari Laine

She has been a model, an actress and a journalist, but Lari (left) says nothing she's ever done interests people as much as the fact that she was a PLAYBOY centerfold. It was also a stepping-stone to a great career. "I had five agents banging on my door after the PLAYBOY appearance," she says. "I was under contract to Allied Artists and to station KTLA, and did a lot of those wonderful television shows like *Playhouse 90* and *Ozzie and Harriet*." (At bottom, she's

with humorist Stan Freberg.) Lari's real name is Corinne, but she changed it for the centerfold because her father was running for Congress at the time. She went



on to marry Jack Entratter, president of the Sands and Dunes hotels in Las Vegas. "Jack ran Vegas in the Fifties and Sixties," she says. "I used to wonder if Jackie Kennedy knew that I was living better than she was." When Entratter died, she married Robert Heffron, "the tire king of southern California. That ended after I was kidnapped, tied and gagged in the trunk of a car in 1973. I realized I was miscast as the wife of the tire king, but he has been a terrific father to our son Benjie." Lari is now married to veteran movie director George (Show Boat, Bye Bye Birdie, Viva Las Vegas) Sidney (inset)—whom she'd met years ago on the set of his film *The Swinger*, in which she had a role. "If you were going to do a Mount Rushmore of show business, George should be up there," she says. "He's a walking, living legend." The longtime society editor of the *Beverly Hills Post*—"I'm the Olivia Trivia of Beverly Hills"—she's president of the Hollywood Women's Press Club and a former candidate for the Beverly Hills City Council.

PHOTOGRAPHER

RON VOGEL on

LARI LAINE

This was a bright-eyed, bushy-tailed kid with a turned-up nose who did a lot of TV and movie work. She was special, not only because she was my first Playmate but because she made the cover of that issue, too.





Miss June 1958

Judy Lee Tomerlin

"You see more on the beach today than you did on my centerfold," says Judy, who's now a real estate broker and the mother of four sons. Between then and now, she was an actress (*Naked City*), dancer (*The Mitch Miller Show*), a model for Clairol and other accounts, and lived in Puerto Rico and South America for a dozen years. "When I posed for the *Photographing Your Own Playmate* pictorial, shot in Hef's office [with PLAYBOY executive Eldon Sellers posing as the photographer], I was working as a receptionist for PLAYBOY's offices at 232 East Ohio Street in Chicago. Hef used to have a little apartment there, but nobody could get to him unless they went past me. He is a very nice person. Tell him hello for me."





Miss July 1958

Linné Nanette Ahlstrand

Linné (above) was originally from Chicago but came to PLAYBOY's attention while living in Los Angeles. Under the headline *Laziest Girl in Town*, the story claimed she'd been discovered napping on the beach and was uninterested in such active pastimes as dancing, tennis or hiking. Energy restored, she returned to Chicago in 1960 to become Bunny Irving at the first Playboy Club.



HEF

on

LINNÉ NANETTE AHLSTRAND

I met this petite Playmate at the Beverly Hills Hotel following a visit to San Francisco, where I saw comic Lenny Bruce for the first time. Since most of the best centerfold prospects seemed to be coming from Los Angeles, I visited there often, carrying test photos of Playmate hopefuls. Linné and I became good friends. I was saddened when she died of cancer at an early age.



Miss September 1958 *Teri Hope*

PLAYBOY was keenly aware of the importance of its campus readership, publishing a College Issue every fall and cultivating a close relationship with student bodies across the country. By the late Fifties, PLAYBOY theme parties were all the rage. At one such event, thrown by the Zeta Chapter of Beta Sigma Rho at Carnegie Tech, fraternity members chose Teri (above) as the prettiest among their dates, hailing her as the Party Playmate and submitting her photo to PLAYBOY for consideration as a centerfold. The magazine flew her to its offices in Chicago, where Staff Photographer Don Bronstein shot her centerfold. Featured along with Teri's story was a page of photos taken at actual PLAYBOY formals around the country.

Miss August 1958 *Myrna Weber*

A secluded Florida beach was the setting for Miami photographer Bunny Yeager's uncoverage of 19-year-old Myrna (left), who was showcased in a picnic setting. "PLAYBOY gave me specific directions to shoot Myrna on the beach with a bonfire in the foreground and a sunset behind her," says Yeager. "Trouble is, we were in Miami and the sun doesn't set in the east, so we had to drive across Florida to the Gulf Coast."

Misses October 1958

Mara Corday and Pat Sheehan

In this unique double feature, titled *Le Rouge et le Blanc*—a play on the theme of red and white wines—PLAYBOY presented two Playmates: redhead Mara Corday (right) and blonde Pat Sheehan (below left).

In 1956, when she posed for David Preston, Mara Corday thought she was being shot for *Esquire*. "Two years passed, during which I married actor Richard Long. I was pregnant with our second child when one day there was a knock on the door and there stood David. He wanted my signature on the photo release for PLAYBOY. My husband was livid. He said, 'Oh, no, she's not going to sign anything,' and I said, 'Get outta here. This is my business.' So I did what I thought was right—the guy had paid me

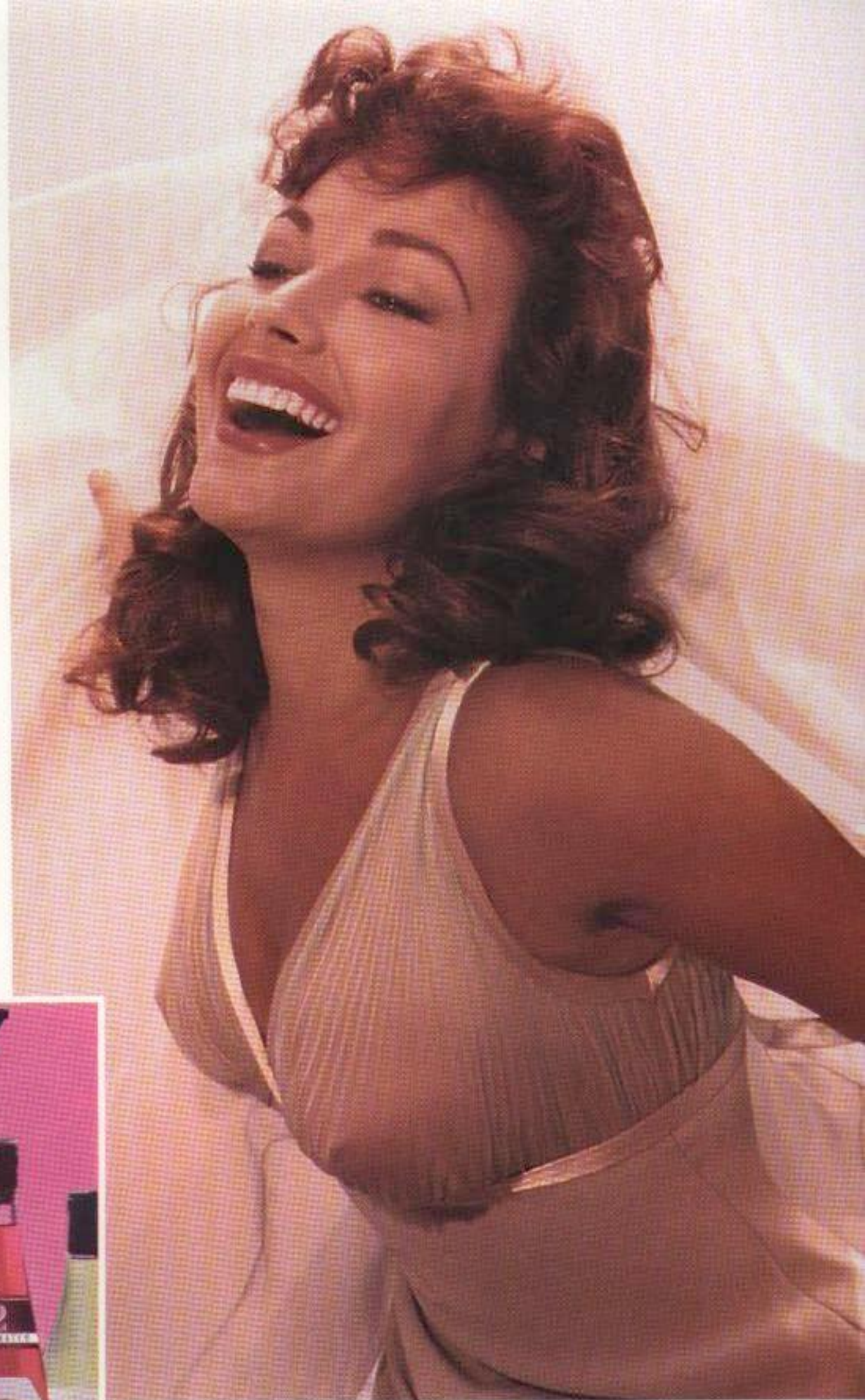
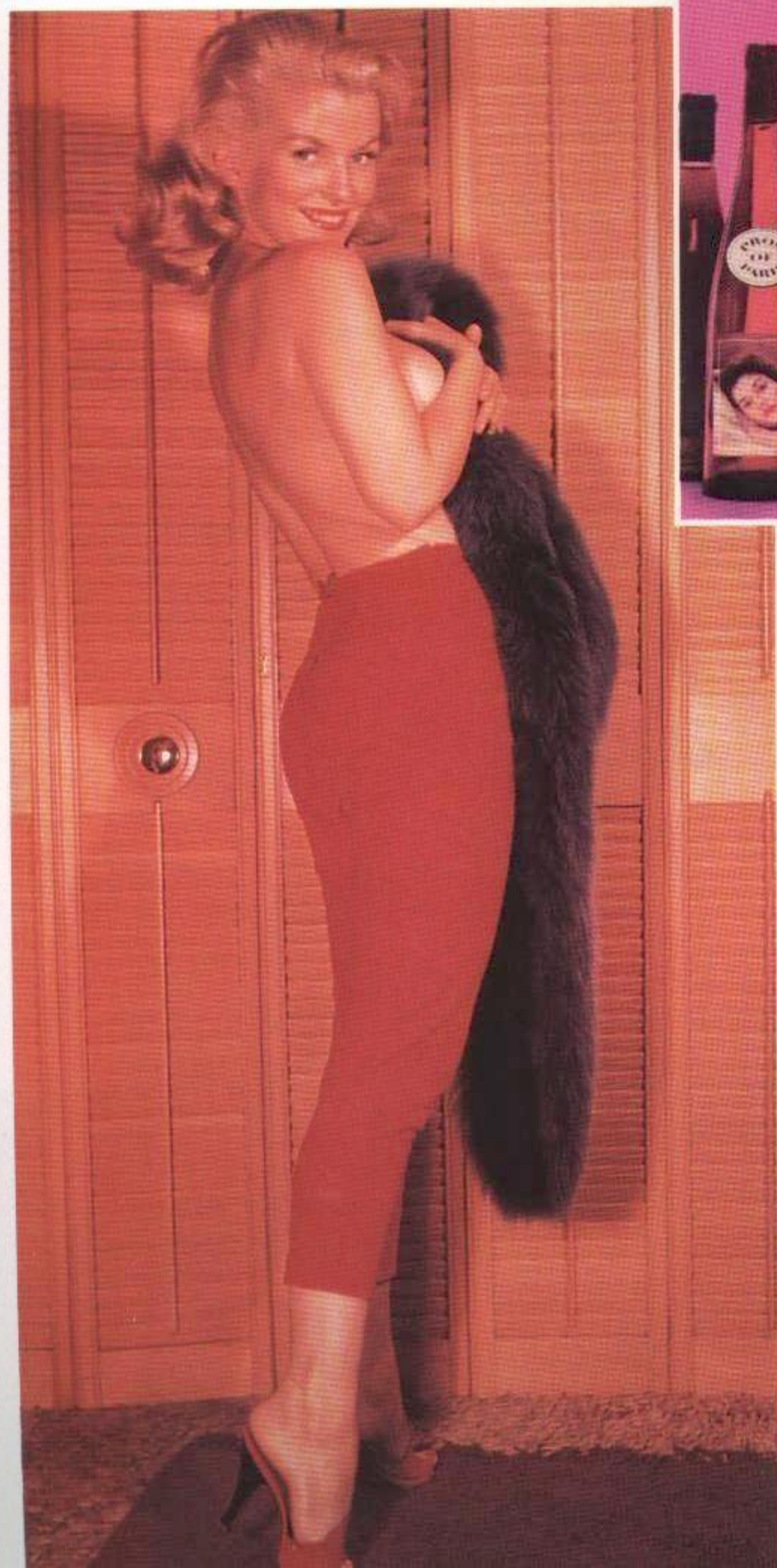
\$150 for the day's shooting, which in those days was pretty good money—and signed it." For Fifties film fans, Mara was the queen of the monster movies:

Tarantula, *The Black Scorpion* and *The Giant Claw*. Mara withdrew from films during her marriage to Long, which produced three children. He died in 1974. More recently, Mara (inset) has done four movies with Clint Eastwood, "a wonderful man. You know the line from *Sudden Impact*, 'Go ahead, make my day'? I'm the waitress he's saying that about—go ahead, kill her.

Clint and I were under contract at Universal in the Fifties. Now I'm the bit player and he's the star."



Like Mara, Pat was surprised when she appeared in PLAYBOY. "Sam Wu took some pictures, I signed a release and got paid about \$75, but he didn't say where they would appear. When the issue came out, I had just married Dennis Crosby. Bing wasn't too thrilled, but the boys loved me." At the time, Pat was NBC's first contract player, appearing on the *Colgate Comedy Hour* and *Coca-Cola Hour*. "I was a showgirl at the Tropicana for two and a half months, but that's how everybody remembers me, probably because all the Crosby boys got married in Vegas." Pat and Dennis' marriage lasted almost eight years, and Pat concentrated on being a mother. She has three sons, Gregory, Dennis and Patrick, and one grandson, Gregory's son Luke (inset left). Pat has never remarried, but, she notes, "I still look good, and I'm sure I will someday."





Miss November 1958

Joan Staley

"My appearance in PLAYBOY was virtually scandalous back then," Joan observes. "Now they can show my centerfold picture [left] on TV." Television played a large part in Joan's life. She appeared on more than 40 TV series, with major roles in *Broadside*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *The Tab Hunter Show* and *The Lively Ones*, and some 20 motion pictures. For the past 30 years she has been married to

Dale Sheets, a TV and motion-picture producer and personal manager whose clients include Mel Tormé. "Between us we have seven children, including two sets of twins, ten grandchildren, and one great-grand-



child, who's the son of Dale's eldest grandson and his wife, Donna Perry [Miss November 1994]." Joan and Dale have long been welcome guests at Playboy Mansion West. "Hef has always been generous, sensitive, extremely warm and gracious," says Joan. "As a Playmate, I feel I'm a member of a very elite sorority." Besides being involved in her husband's firm, Joan (in a recent shot, inset) counsels boot camp inmates.

PHOTOGRAPHER

LAWRENCE SCHILLER *on*

JOAN STALEY

I posed Joan on the set of a CBS-TV show where she worked and submitted the candid shots to PLAYBOY. By the time the magazine assigned her centerfold shooting, she had discovered she was pregnant. We covered her stomach with the script for the show.

PLAYBOY ART DIRECTOR

ART PAUL *on*

PREGNANT PLAYMATES

In the early days, the number of Playmates who were pregnant when they were shot was amazing. Later on, when I commissioned George Segal to do his concept of *The Playmate as Fine Art*, he sculpted a pregnant woman. I asked George why he did it, and he said he thought they were the most beautiful.

Miss December 1958

Joyce Nizzari

"I remember my PLAYBOY experience not as a highlight of my life but as something that has been scattered throughout my life," Joyce says now (inset). "First I was on the cover in July 1958, then the centerfold, and I was a Bunny when the first Club opened—I was there so early I had one of those costumes without a collar. When the New Orleans Club opened I flew down there in a private plane with Hef for two weeks training the new Bunnies. Later I worked at the Miami Club. And I did some movies and television—I got my first job as an actress, on *Burke's Law*, because of PLAYBOY. But I didn't really want an acting career. I was too self-conscious." Joyce married Jack Hogan of TV's *Combat* series. The couple lived in Hawaii and had two children, now 27 and 25, before divorcing. "I met my second



husband, who was a builder and real estate agent, in 1983, and married him in 1986," says Joyce. Single once more, Joyce lives in the Los Angeles area and has been working as a medical transcriber. "I go to the movies at the Mansion, and this past New Year's Eve I went to the party there with my son as my date. He says he feels as if Hef's an uncle, or related somehow, because PLAYBOY has been in our lives for so long."



HEF on JOYCE NIZZARI

Joyce was a teenage model in Miami when Bunny Yeager introduced us in 1958. The romance that began then lasted for two years, but the friendship has endured for a lifetime. She and I were in Havana in November 1958, just weeks before Fidel Castro overthrew the Batista government on New Year's Day 1959. We went to the Cannes Film Festival that summer, and she was my date at the first Playboy Jazz Festival in Chicago in August 1959 as well as at the Kennedy inauguration in January 1961.





Miss January 1959

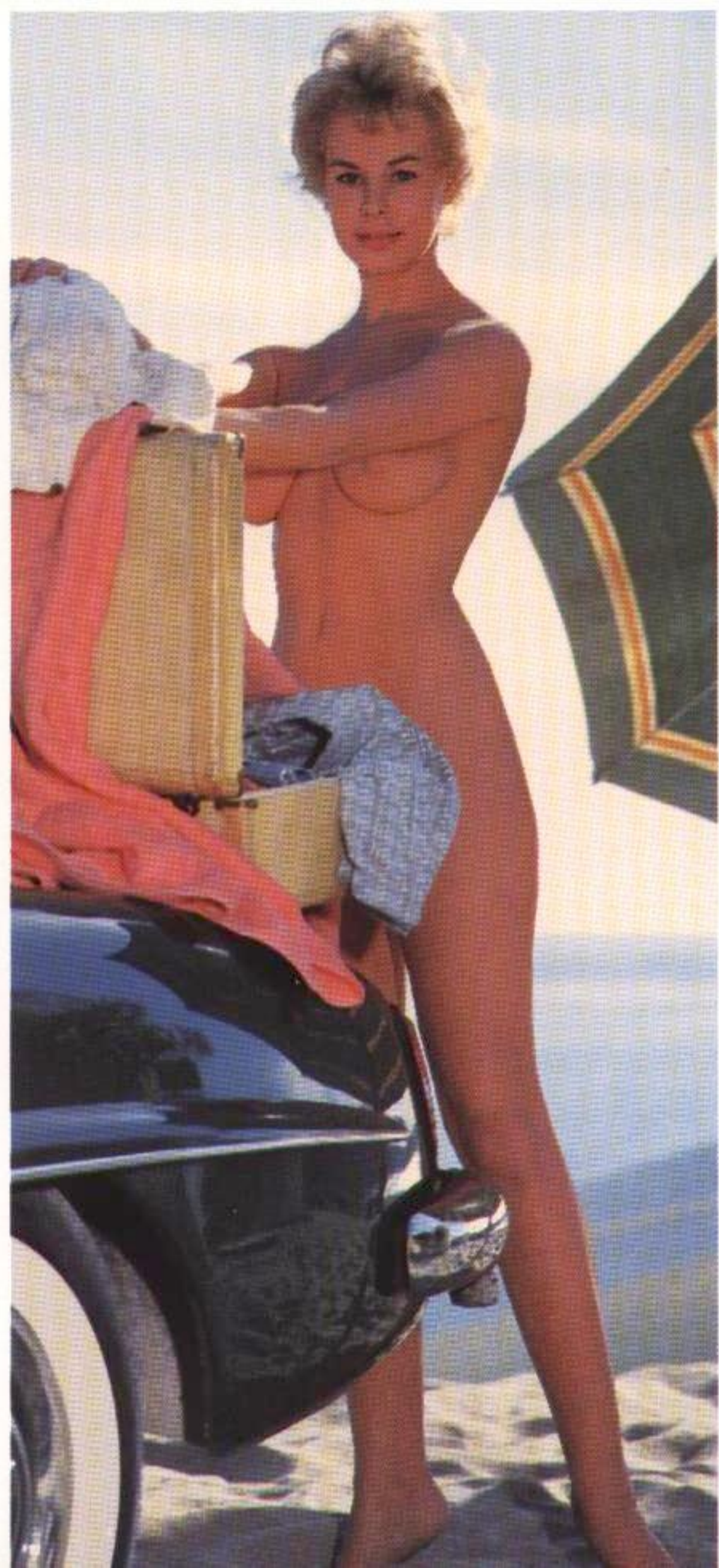
*Virginia
Gordon*

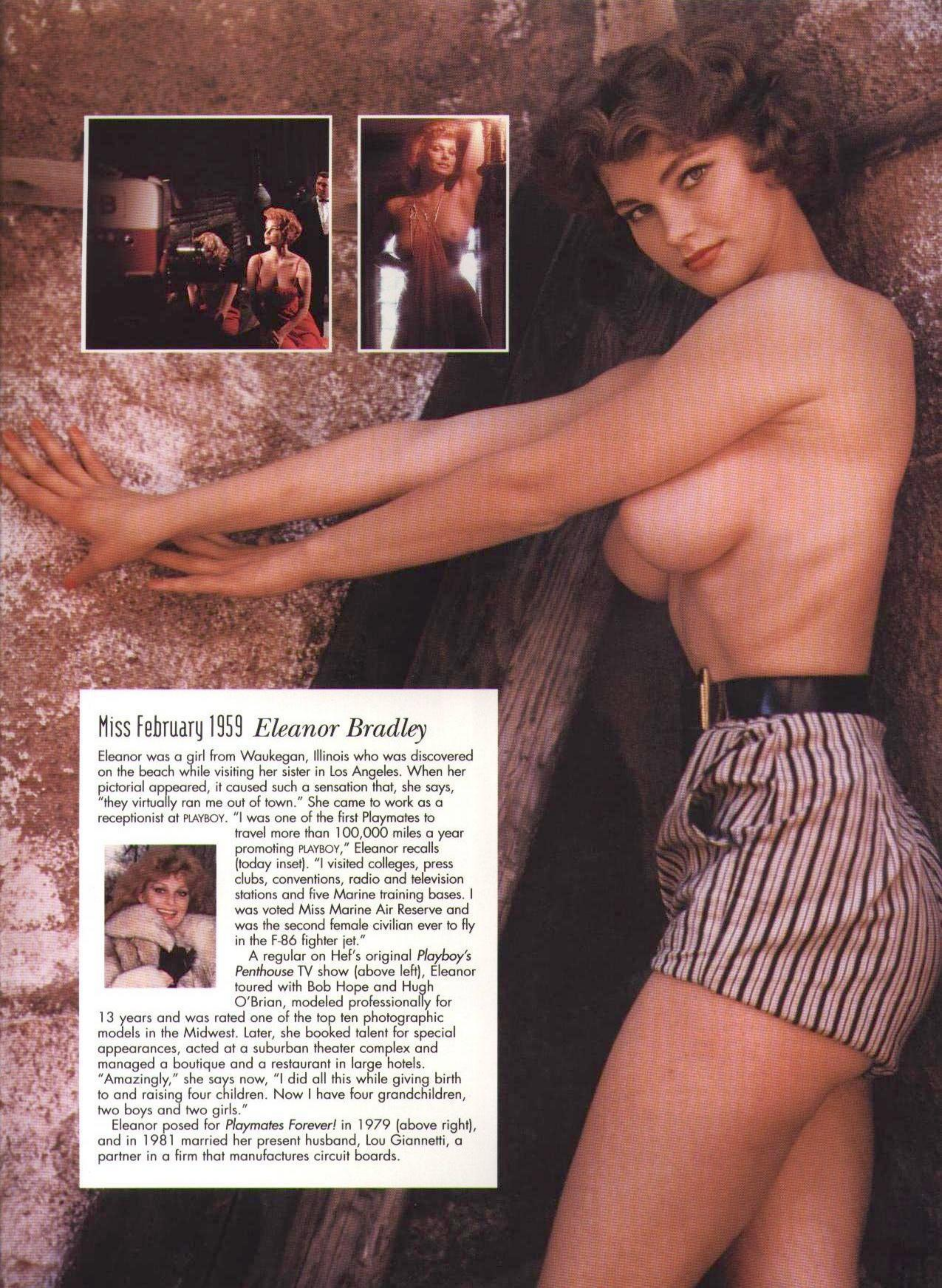
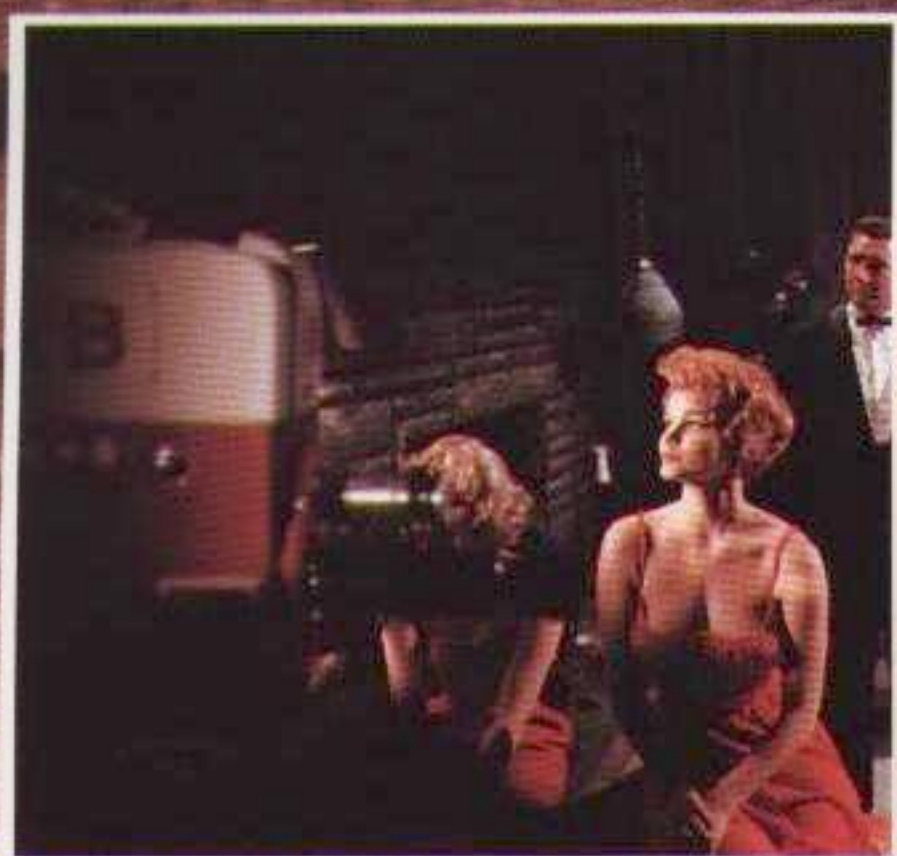
Virginia (above and right) was promoted as the classic prim librarian, but was actually a Hollywood hopeful photographed by Ron Vogel. Following her *PLAYBOY* appearance, she appeared nude and seminude in a number of the men's magazines that proliferated after *PLAYBOY*'s launch. That prompted Hefner to establish new guidelines, setting up contracts that guaranteed the exclusivity of Playmates with promotion contracts that lasted for two years. This exclusivity served as the beginning of what proved to be, in many cases, lifelong relationships between *PLAYBOY* and its Playmates of the Month.



Miss March 1959 *Audrey Daston*

Audrey (right) posed with a sporty Mercedes convertible—a touch, says photographer Lawrence Schiller, that the car company loved. After his earlier centerfold of Joan Staley came out in the magazine, Schiller was besieged by Playmate wannabes—among them Audrey. "She walked in off the street, and she was a knockout," he says.





Miss February 1959 *Eleanor Bradley*

Eleanor was a girl from Waukegan, Illinois who was discovered on the beach while visiting her sister in Los Angeles. When her pictorial appeared, it caused such a sensation that, she says, "they virtually ran me out of town." She came to work as a receptionist at PLAYBOY. "I was one of the first Playmates to



travel more than 100,000 miles a year promoting PLAYBOY," Eleanor recalls (today inset). "I visited colleges, press clubs, conventions, radio and television stations and five Marine training bases. I was voted Miss Marine Air Reserve and was the second female civilian ever to fly in the F-86 fighter jet."

A regular on Hef's original *Playboy's Penthouse* TV show (above left), Eleanor toured with Bob Hope and Hugh O'Brian, modeled professionally for

13 years and was rated one of the top ten photographic models in the Midwest. Later, she booked talent for special appearances, acted at a suburban theater complex and managed a boutique and a restaurant in large hotels. "Amazingly," she says now, "I did all this while giving birth to and raising four children. Now I have four grandchildren, two boys and two girls."

Eleanor posed for *Playmates Forever!* in 1979 (above right), and in 1981 married her present husband, Lou Giannetti, a partner in a firm that manufactures circuit boards.



Miss April 1959 *Nancy Crawford*

"When I appeared in the magazine [left and above] at the age of 18, I had no idea what direction my life would take," says Nancy. "Well, I did not go on to become a movie star, but I have enjoyed a satisfying life as a homemaker and a dog lover." A Virginia horsewoman when her Playmate pictures were taken, she now (inset) lives in a suburban New York community.

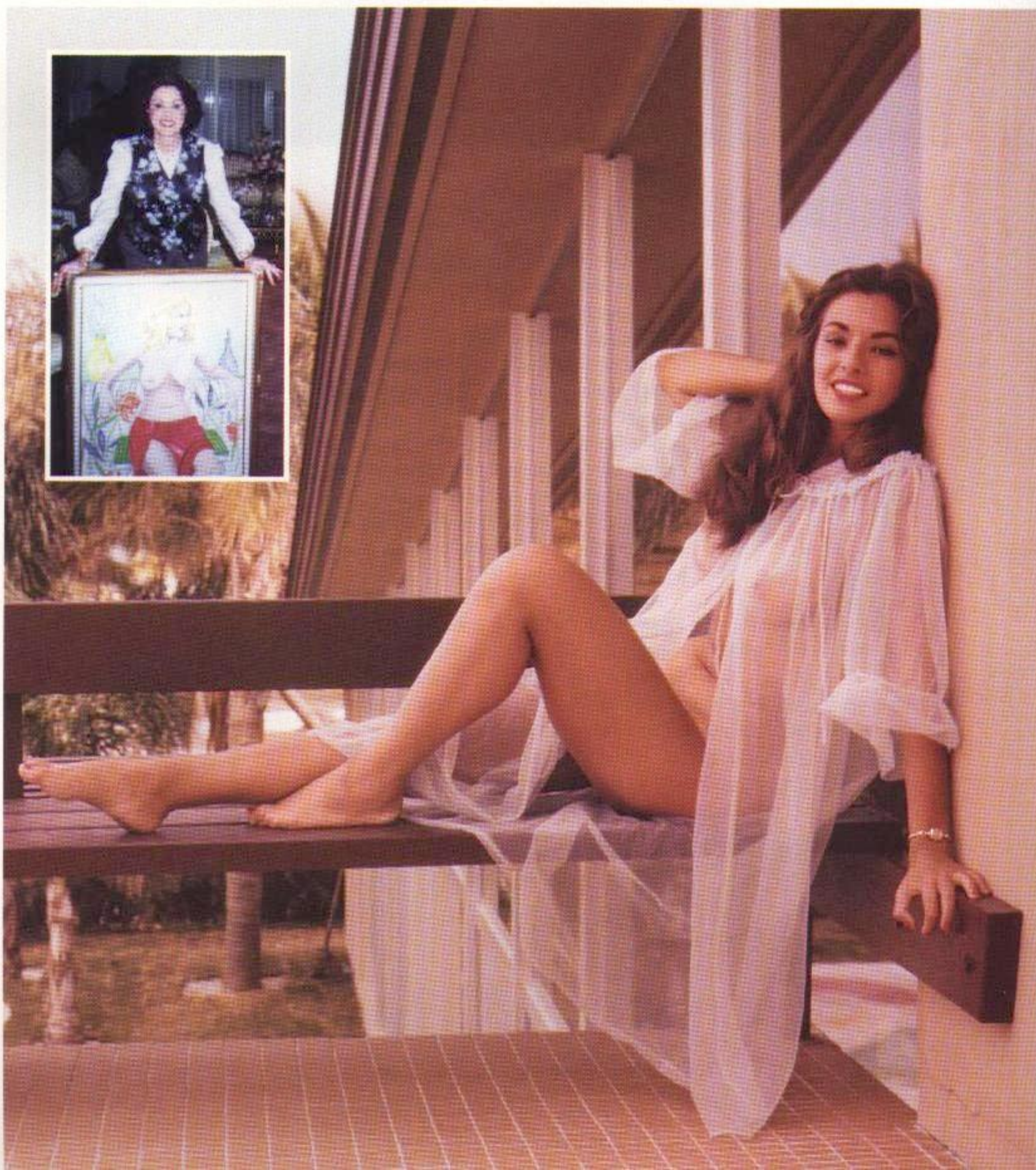


Miss May 1959 *Cindy Fuller*

"A lot has happened in my life in the past 37 years," says Cindy (right). "After doing the centerfold, I worked as a showgirl and dancer for Lou Walters at the Latin Quarter in Miami and New York City as well as the Copacabana in New York. I'm still active in the World Famous Copacabana Girls, Inc., a group of Copa girls from around the country.

I continued in show business for a few years and then went into modeling. In 1965 I got married, had a daughter who's now 29, and was a housewife for many years.

That's when I began painting, which I still do [inset]. I've been a professional artist since 1972 and have had a number of one-woman shows." She and her second husband have been married for 13 years.



Miss June 1959

Marilyn Hanold

Marilyn, a member of comedian George Gobel's nightclub act, was the custodian of his guitar (below). She also appeared in the Gobel film *The Birds and the Bees*; later, in the 1963-64 season, she had a role in *The Sid Caesar Show*. In their *Complete Directory to Prime Time Network and Cable TV Shows*, Tim Brooks and Earle Marsh refer to her as "a gorgeous lass who never spoke, only looked beautiful."

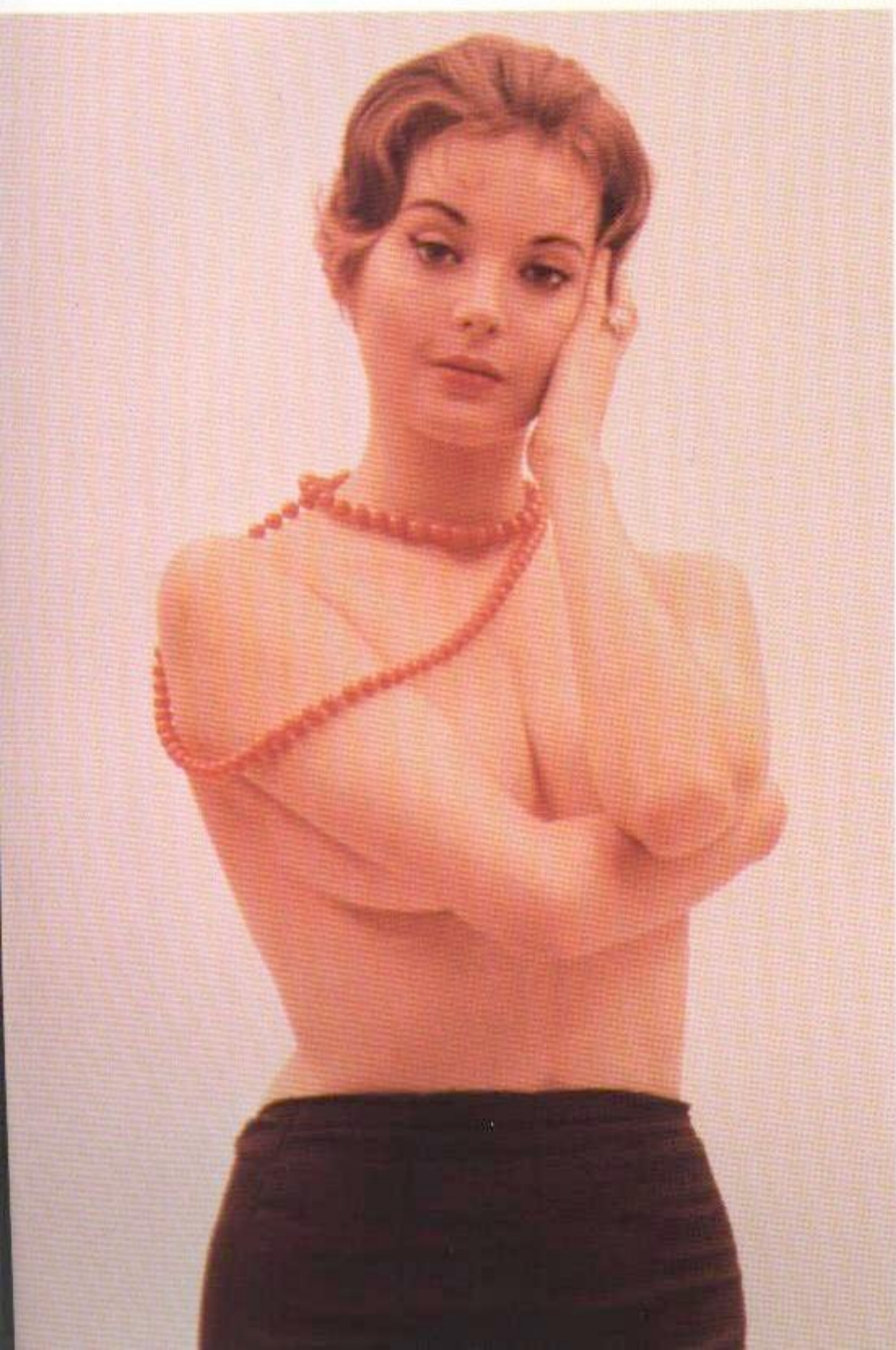




Miss July 1959 *Yvette Vickers*

Although her Playmate copy described her as "a movie hopeful," Yvette (above) had already filmed the features that have made her a cult figure today. "It's funny—I did a ton of movies [including *Hud*, below center], but the ones people remember are *Attack of the 50-Foot Woman* and *Attack of the Giant Leeches*.

Now I have thousands of letters from all over the world, and I go to fan conventions all the time." The best thing her PLAYBOY exposure did for her, Yvette says now (inset), was to bring her to the attention of actor Jim Hutton. "He saw my layout and called my agent. We had a love affair for about 14 years. I've been married three times, but the people I was so much in love with, like Jimmy, I never married." Besides making movies, Yvette has acted on stage—"actually, there I had better roles"—and television, and has written, sung and produced original songs. "Being in PLAYBOY is something I've always been proud of."



Miss August 1959 *Clayre Peters*

Manhattanite Clayre (left), photographed by Frank Eck, was introduced as the magazine's *Penthouse Playmate* in copy that said little about her real life. The word "penthouse" had special PLAYBOY connotations at the time. The magazine had just published architectural renderings of a penthouse apartment as the ultimate PLAYBOY pad, and Hefner was about to host his *Playboy's Penthouse* TV series. The following February, the first Playboy Club would open with its showroom dubbed The Penthouse. All of this, Hefner observes, eventually prompted another publisher to name his publication *Penthouse* "to assure its close association with PLAYBOY in the public's mind."

Miss September 1959

Marianne Gaba

She won the Miss Illinois contest, went to Los Angeles to enter the Miss Universe competition, enrolled at USC and was discovered for television. "I played Ricky Nelson's girlfriend on *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. I went steady with Ricky for a year and a half [below]. I played Ronnie's girlfriend on the George Burns show [she's with George in 1992, inset] and I had a fairly big part in *How to Stuff a Wild Bikini*." Just before starting work on *GI Blues* with Elvis Presley (bottom),



Marianne met a businessman. He proposed within a week, and she accepted. "But then Elvis asked me out. So I told my future husband: 'Mike, even though we're engaged and I love you dearly, I have a chance to go on a date with Elvis and I'm going.'" Elvis, says Marianne, was "wonderful. We went to his suite at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, he played his guitar for me and we necked. He was a great kisser. Then we went to see a show, and he drove me home and that was it. I was a virgin when I got married. Mike and I are still married; we have a son, a daughter and two grandchildren." They were married in Las Vegas with Connie Stevens, Marianne's erstwhile roommate, as maid of honor.



Miss October 1959

Elaine Reynolds

Elaine (right) was photographed by Frank Eck in New York. She and Hefner became friends, dating in both Chicago and Manhattan, and she was one of the centerfolds featured in the *Playmate Holiday House Party* pictorial in December 1961. She became a showgirl at the Latin Quarter in New York, and was reportedly the first Playmate to undergo breast-reduction surgery. "I must have lost about 20 pounds since those Playmate pictures," says Elaine.

"I think I look better now [see inset]." She has led an active life, swimming in the Water Folies, working as a Bunny in Chicago and Miami, raising horses and show dogs, even fighting bulls in Spain, where she and her husband had a son, now 22. But when the marriage ended, Elaine returned to the States, earned a degree in comparative humanities—"with a 4.0 grade-point average, so nobody can say I'm a dumb Bunny"—got married again and for a time did voice-over commercials in New York. After a decade of marriage, she and her second husband separated and she moved to Georgia, where she is currently involved in real estate—and "writing a book on my divorce experiences."



Miss November 1959 Donna Lynn

She was working as a waitress at the Cloister, a supper club on Hollywood's Sunset Strip, when PLAYBOY came calling. "The gang who were buddies of Hef's would come down to the club, and someone decided I would make a centerfold. It kind of went from there." Donna became Miss November 1959 and the cover girl of the 1961 Playmate Calendar. Mickey Rooney also found Donna at the Cloister, and offered her a role in *The Private Lives of Adam and Eve*. "Then I did a Dean Martin picture, *Who Was That Lady?*, and a couple of other movies. I never got to be a big to-do, though. I married a couple of times, not well, and went into business. I owned a bar for six or seven years, or it owned me, and I had a cleaning business. I worked for a veterinarian—did it

all, assisted in surgery, kept the books, mopped the kennels. And I went to school and got a manicurist's license." Now (inset) living in "Hollywood South," the San Diego area, Donna has reactivated her Screen Actors Guild membership and is looking to renew her showbiz career. To date she has worked on *Mr. Wrong* with Ellen DeGeneres and in Cheryl Ladd's TV series *One Waikiki West*, "and I want to do more."



Miss December 1959

Ellen Stratton

1960 Playmate of the Year

"Tim Allen owes his manhood to me," says Ellen Stratton. There's a passage in Allen's book *Don't Stand Too Close to a Naked Man* in which the *Home Improvement* star recalls his first sexual stirrings, occasioned by seeing Ellen's Christmas-themed centerfold. It was Ellen's centerfold, Allen says, that made him realize that "every woman is naked under her clothes." He couldn't stop thinking about the picture. "Hell, I'm 41 years old and I still think about it. Ellen Stratton is probably 60 by now. Ellen, wherever you are, you're always in my heart." Ellen isn't 60 yet, and she's in Arkansas. PLAYBOY's first Playmate of the Year was the daughter of Mississippi sharecroppers. "My family moved to California by way of Steinbeck—seven of us in a car—in 1949," she says. "We went to Bakersfield and picked cotton. Back home, we kids had worked in the fields, but in California it was the law that we had to go to school. I was the first in my family to graduate from high school." When photographers recruited her to pose for PLAYBOY, Ellen was a legal secretary. She gave up that career to work on PLAYBOY promotions and as a Bunny in the Chicago Club. She went into modeling, did 33 TV commercials and appeared in some soap operas, like *Search for Tomorrow*. No longer married, she relocated to Arkansas with her mother and younger daughter in 1995. "PLAYBOY totally changed my life," Ellen says today. "It gave me my freedom, it broke me away from the office, it taught me a lot. That's where my life took off. That's the only reason I could have been a model, made the money I did, bought the properties I've owned. I'm proud of it."





THE SIXTIES





Miss January 1960 *Stella Stevens*

Born Estelle Eggleston in Yazoo City, Mississippi on October 1, 1938, Stella was bitten by the acting bug as a student at Memphis State University. She was a Hollywood hopeful—and a young divorcée with a son to support—when a freelance photographer approached her about posing for PLAYBOY. During her subsequent centerfold shooting, the phone rang. On the other end was great news: Stella had been chosen to play Appassionata von Climax in the movie version of the Broadway hit *Li'l Abner*—itself the subject of a 1957 PLAYBOY pictorial featuring her buddy Tina Louise in the Appassionata role.

(Luckily for Stella, Tina passed on the film.) After her pictorial, the first of several in the magazine, appeared, Miss January stoutly defended herself against accusations by a Memphis preacher ("If it was a mistake, I'll learn from it. If it was not, and I don't think it was, I'll profit by it") and later told a magazine writer, "Honey, you wouldn't be talking to me now if it weren't for those nude shots." Stella's abundant film credits include *The Nutty Professor* with Jerry Lewis, *The Silencers* with Dean Martin, *The Courtship of Eddie's Father* with Glenn Ford and *The Poseidon Adventure* with an all-star cast including Ernest Borgnine (inset). But critics consider her portrayal of Hildy in *The Ballad of Cable Hogue* (right) to be her crowning performance. In 1979 she produced and directed a documentary, *The American Heroine*. Her son, Andrew Stevens, grew up to be an actor and director. Among his onscreen collaborators: Mom and PLAYBOY's 1982 Playmate of the Year, Shannon Tweed.



Previous spread: Donna Michelle, Miss December 1963 and 1964 Playmate of the Year.

Miss February 1960

Susie Scott

A Frank Sinatra fan from the Windy City, Susie (right and below) was one of a dozen Playmates who were Hugh Hefner's special guests at the Playmate Holiday House Party hosted at the new Playboy Mansion in Chicago (and chronicled in a memorable December 1961 magazine layout).

Susie was one of the Bunnies at the Chicago Playboy Club, which opened during the month of her centerfold appearance. More than two decades later, another Susie Scott—a computer software specialist who was no relation to her predecessor—was to become Miss May 1983 (see page 268).



Miss March 1960

Sally Sarell

Greenwich Village was the home of art student Sally Sarell (above), a former farmer from Finland whom PLAYBOY's headline writer aptly deemed *Pretty as a Picture*. Sally was photographed visiting "New York's controversial Guggenheim Museum" (below), which she described as breathtaking.





Miss April 1960

Linda Gamble

1961 Playmate of the Year
Linda Gamble, an antique-collecting private secretary whose Playmate story pictured her in her hometown of Pittsburgh, picked up and left Pennsylvania for Illinois. "I was a Bunny in Chicago until, I think, 1965. Then I married, moved to California and raised six sons. But about ten years ago, when they got old enough to be on their own, I moved back to Chicago, where I've invested in real estate. I love this city. And I loved PLAYBOY. It was the highlight of my life. Hef was a great guy to work for, the best boss anybody could ever have. It was a great job and I wish I were still doing it. We had a Bunny Reunion in Chicago in 1995, and I hope we'll do it every year, but the Playmate Reunion at Playboy Mansion West in 1979 was the best party ever. I wish they'd do it again, even for one day."

HEF
on

LINDA GAMBLE

Linda was a very popular Bunny at the Chicago Club. She was the only Playmate in the *Playmate Holiday House Party* layout I wasn't romantically involved with at the time, but I picked her as the second Playmate of the Year just the same.

Miss May 1960

Ginger Young

Before there was Jay Leno, there were Johnny Carson, Jack Paar and Steve Allen, and it was on *The Steve Allen Show* that Ginger Young (right) made the appearance pictured in her PLAYBOY layout. The striking redhead also boasted a TV stint with Jerry Lewis.



Miss June 1960 *Delores Wells*

"I was working as an 'Adorable' at the Chez Paree nightclub in Chicago when I met Hef," Delores recalls from her home in Arizona. "I was making \$90 a week and dripping in minks and jewels. Hef would talk about his plans for a club and I thought, Girls dressed like bunnies? Is he nuts?" But she left the Chez Paree to become one of the first cottontails in Chicago (where, she says, she upped her weekly income to \$1000). As a Playmate (below), she made a flat \$500 fee plus \$100 a month for two years—and was interviewed by *Newsweek*. "PLAYBOY opened a lot of doors for me in films and TV," she says. "I did a bunch of beach movies and I played with Gene Kelly in *A Guide for the Married Man*. I was a dancer, and to me Gene was the epitome. Then I went into make-up, got married, had a daughter, worked in real estate and PR, and, for a time, as a secretary for Linda Lovelace." Delores had met the former porn star at a party at Playboy Mansion West, and later helped her raise funds for a liver transplant.



Miss July 1960 *Teddi Smith*

Now an interior designer in New York ("It's like being a psychiatrist: I find out what you need and want, and then I make it happen"), Teddi (above) was a four-time cover girl and a guest at Hefner's first pajama party in 1963. As an early Bunny, she says, "I stood up for women's rights in the workplace, and Hef always listened to me. He really cares about his people."

HEF on TEDDI SMITH

Teddi was a good friend. She came from Los Angeles and moved into the Playboy Mansion when she became a Bunny. I got a personal letter from her mother asking me to look out for her, and I did. She worked in the offices of the magazine for a while as well, and was one of our most popular cover girls in the Sixties.



Miss August 1960

Elaine Paul

Brooklyn-based fabric designer Elaine Paul (left) "has the material," a PLAYBOY scribe quipped, to become Miss August.

Miss October 1960

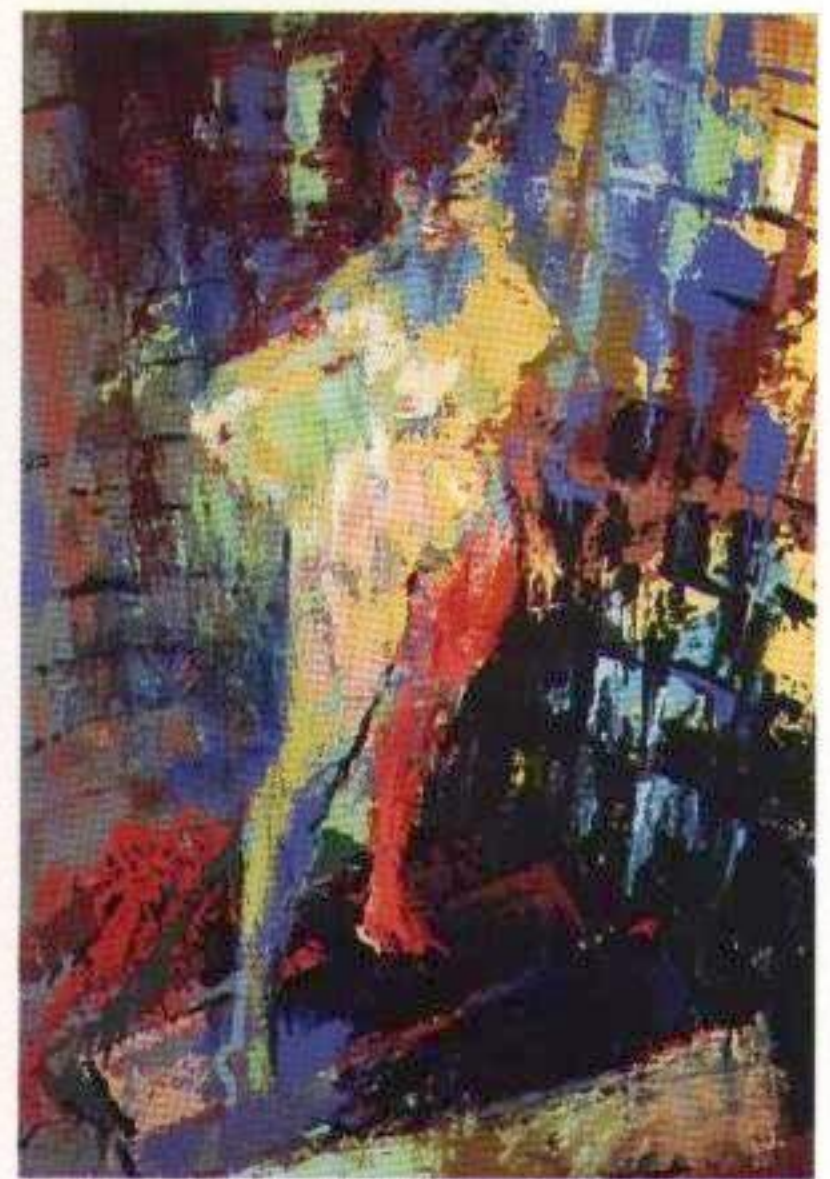
Kathy Douglas

When Mario Casilli shot her centerfold, Kathy Douglas (right) was among the rarefied ranks of *The Girls of Hollywood*. Other beauties featured in that pictorial included Tuesday Weld, Yvette Mimieux and Tina Louise.



Miss September 1960 *Ann Davis*

Painting a Playmate, the first of two features for which PLAYBOY invited artists to illustrate the centerfold concept, focused the attention of 11 painters on Ann Davis (below), formerly of *Cincinnati*, then working as a Chicago secretary. The magazine had received some 50 awards for excellence in art and design, reasoned Art Director Art Paul; why not enlist contributors to depict the magazine's heart, its Playmate? At right, tributes by LeRoy Neiman (above) and Paul himself (below).





Miss November 1960

Joni Mattis

A romance prompted Joni to move out of her home and into Chicago's Playboy Mansion. She soon became a Bunny and Miss November 1960. Her centerfold (above) was, she said, the least popular ever published. "The only fan letter I got was from a clergyman who wanted to know what a nice girl like me was doing in that sort of magazine." Joni is now a social secretary at Playboy Mansion West.



HEF on JONI MATTIS

Joni (inset) is one of the best, a loyal friend and staff member through good times and bad, for almost four decades. She had been married briefly in the Fifties, now has two grown daughters, and is eternally grateful to me for rescuing her from suburbia. I met her on the set of *Playboy's Penthouse*, on which she was a regular model, in the fall of 1959. It was to Joni that I sang *Walkin' My Baby Back Home* on the TV show. The romantic involvement didn't last very long, but the friendship did. When she moved out to Los Angeles in the mid-Sixties, she became my West Coast secretary. She hired the Bunnies for the Los Angeles Playboy Club and the models for my second TV venture, *Playboy After Dark*, including Barbi Benton—who became my girlfriend but, contrary to widespread opinion, was never a Playmate or a Bunny.



Miss December 1960

Carol Eden

A decade after appearing in the magazine, Carol (left) produced a daughter, Simone—who, in a notable demonstration of great centerfold genes, became Playmate of the Month for February 1989. "I was very happy over Simone's centerfold, much more than mine," says Carol, who for a time pursued a Hollywood career, then married, had a family (Simone and her two brothers) and is now a licensed vocational nurse. "Bleached blonde hair was popular when I posed, and although I had naturally fair hair I just kept getting blonder and blonder. Now I'm a brunette." Carol lives in Southern California with her second husband, who works for a food company but doubles as a jazz musician.



Playboy's Penthouse

The late-night television show *Playboy's Penthouse*, hosted by Hefner for 52 weeks in the 1959–61 seasons, not only featured stellar performers (Ella Fitzgerald, Lenny Bruce, Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr. and Duke Ellington) but was a powerful promotional showcase for Playmates and Playmate hopefuls (above). Among the centerfolds was Merle Pertile, Miss January 1962 (below). At left, Hef dons his *Playboy's Penthouse* tux for a June 1961 magazine fashion feature; at his side is Miss November 1960, Joni Mattis. *Playboy's Penthouse* was syndicated nationally, but its presentation of black performers in a social setting with whites kept the show off stations in the segregated South of the period.





Miss January 1961 *Connie Cooper*

Miss January (above) was studying the ins and outs of real estate at a Southern California junior college when she posed for PLAYBOY's centerfold. She later opted for marriage and motherhood.

Miss February 1961 *Barbara Ann Lawford*

PLAYBOY discovered Barbara (below) shopping for ski equipment in Sherman Oaks, California, but most of her Playmate pictures were of the indoor, après-ski variety. Deserting Western slopes for Midwestern flatlands, Barbara soon headed for Chicago to become a Bunny at the first Playboy Club.



Miss March 1961 *Tonya Crews*

Thanks to her Native American lineage—she was part Choctaw—Oklahoma-born Tonya (above) spent a portion of her youth on a Hopi reservation in Arizona. Heading for Hollywood, she chose to be not an actress but a dance teacher. Sadly, her career was cut short in 1966 when she was involved in a fatal auto accident.



Miss April 1961

Nancy Nielsen

A painter, sports-car enthusiast and fan of baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers, Nancy Nielsen (above) was enrolled in Twentieth Century Fox's acting school when she signed up to be a Playmate.

HEF on CALIFORNIA CENTERFOLDS

Nancy Nielsen and Susan Kelly are classic examples of why more centerfolds come from California than from any other state in the Union—and, in fact, why more beautiful girls live in California than anywhere else in the world. The young and the beautiful come to Hollywood in search of celebrity. This is where the dreams come from, and where the dreams come true. I moved to California precisely because my dreams came from here.

Miss May 1961

Susan Kelly

She had a sheepskin from the University of Oklahoma and came to Hollywood to teach English. Naturally, Susan (right and below) was promptly discovered by a movie producer, who cast her as a WAC lieutenant in *Dondi*—a movie based on a comic-strip character.



Miss June 1961 *Heidi Becker*

"My mother was very adventurous," says Austrian-born Heidi, one of the most popular Playmates of her era—making both editors' and readers' lists of the top ten centerfolds from the magazine's first decade.

"She remarried and came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to start a new life for us." Mother died years ago,

but Heidi and her sister Charlotte are still going strong, both now living in California. "I came out

here because I married an actor, Chris Anders,"

Heidi explains. That marriage ended in divorce, as did her second. "My animals are my kids," says

Heidi, who sent along a photo of herself today with one of her four cats (inset). She's blonde now—

"You can see blondes better in the dark," she says, laughing—as she was in 1979's pictorial *Playmates*

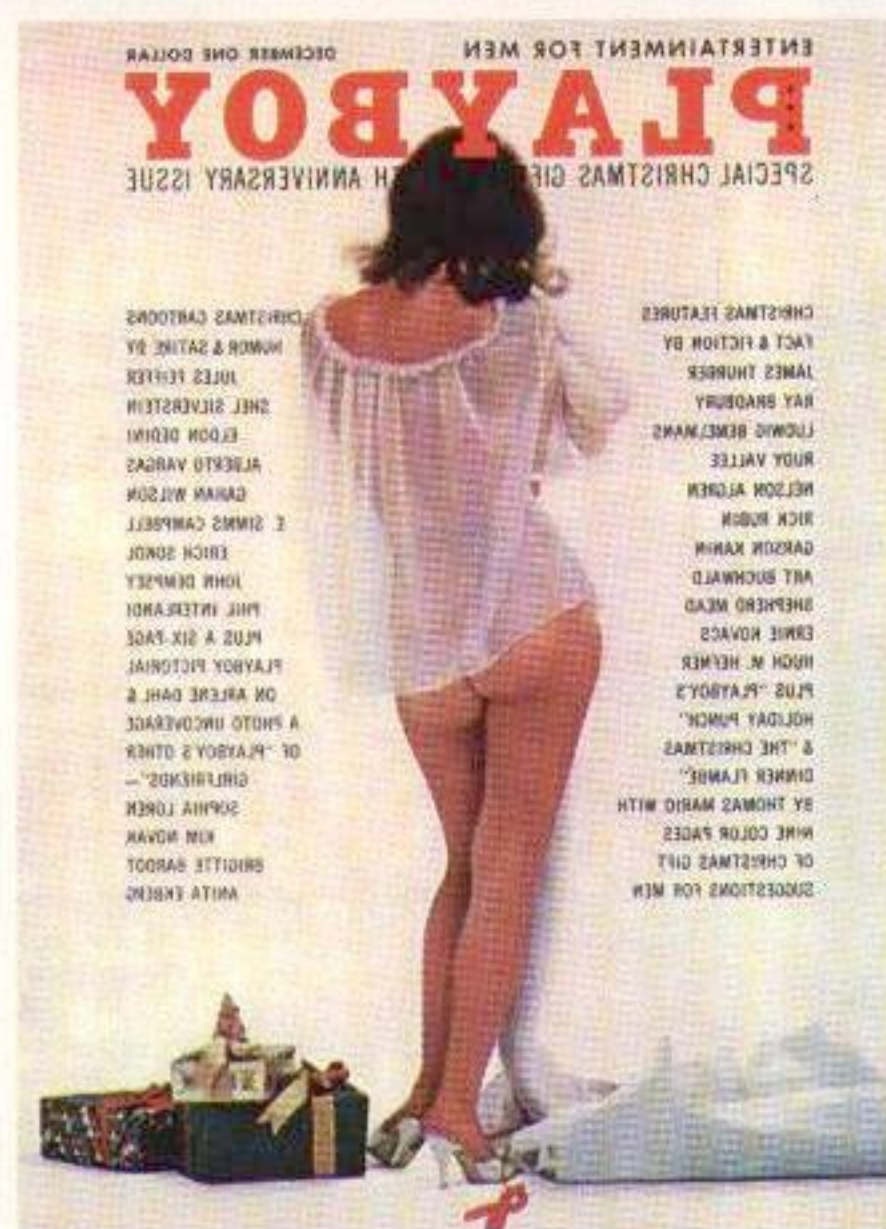
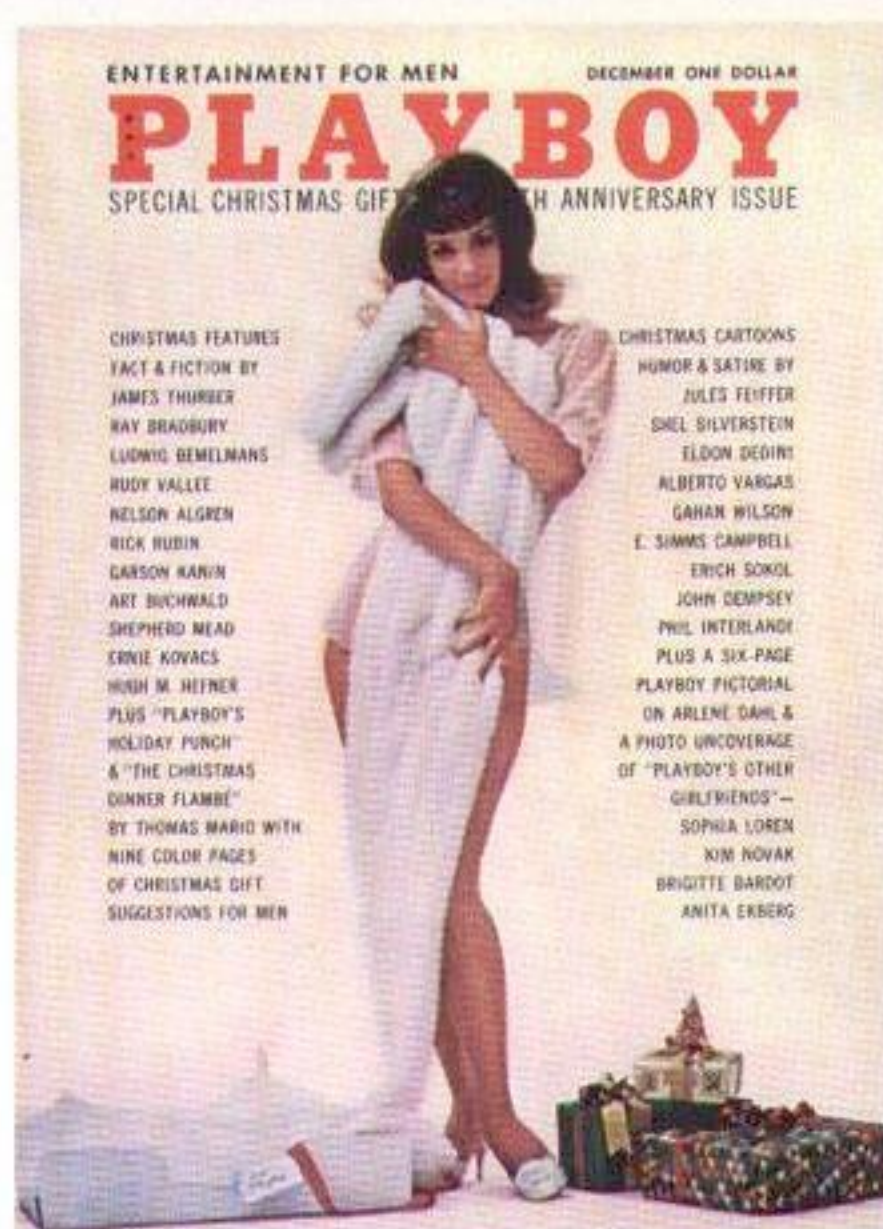
Forever! (below), lensed by Mario Casilli, the man who talked her out of her clothes in the first place.

"We met at a party," she recalls. "I was 20, he was about 28, and he was

gorgeous. I thought, Oh, this man cannot see me in the nude!" Fortunately for PLAYBOY readers, he—and they—eventually did.

Heidi still works as a hairstylist, as she did when her centerfold appeared. But she has recently embarked on a new career as a dental hygienist for cats and dogs.





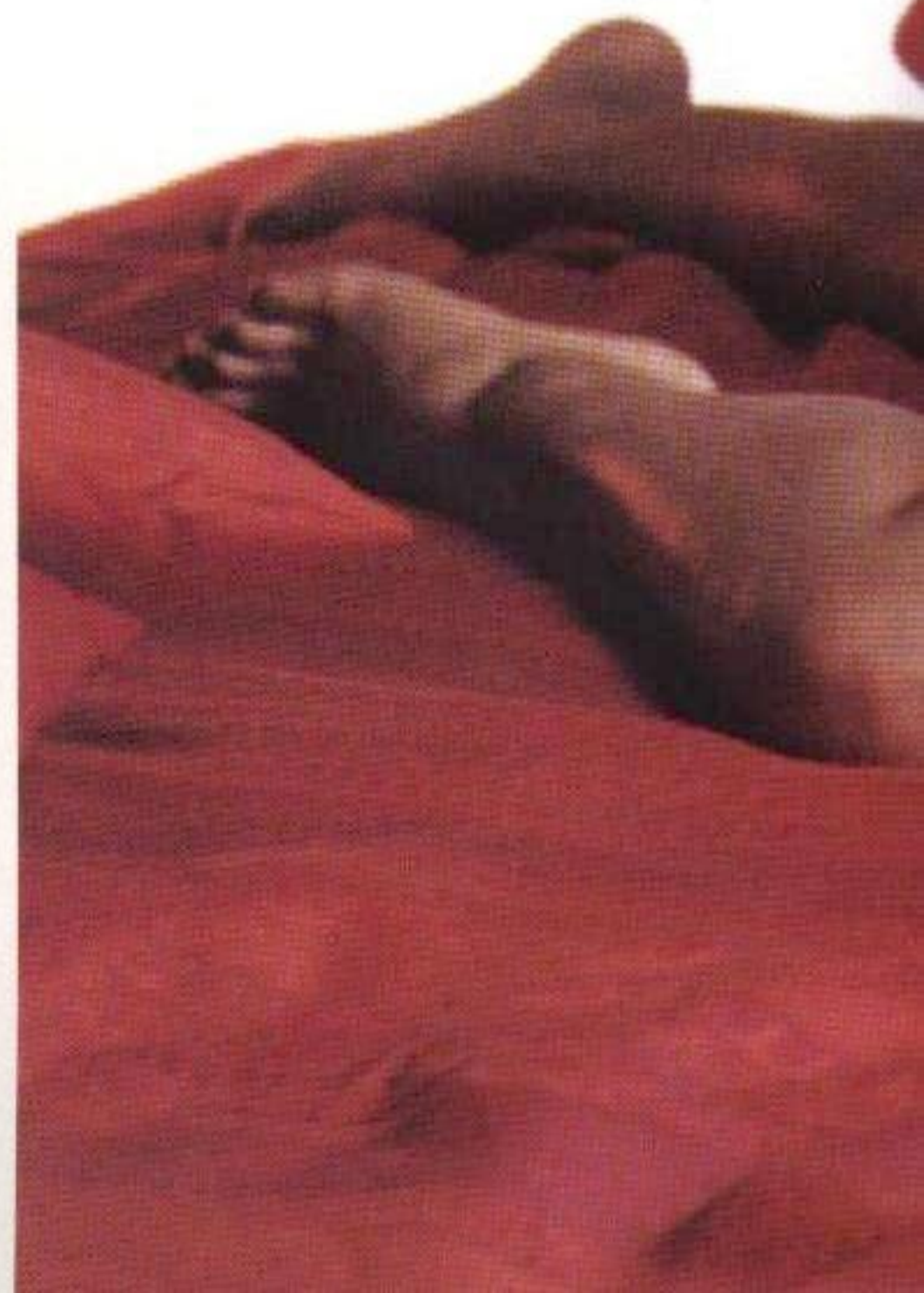
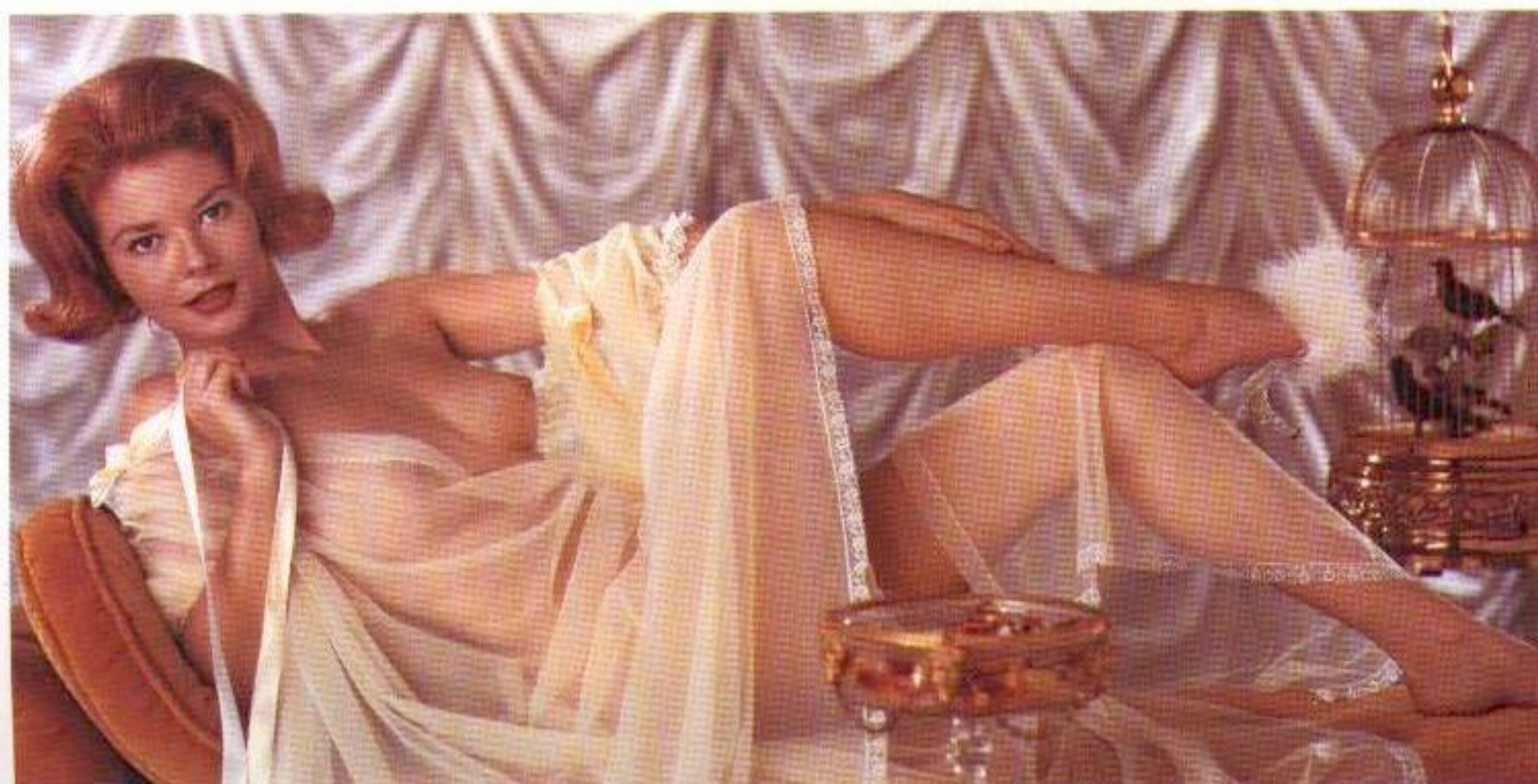
Miss July 1961

Sheralee Connors

This statuesque model (above) became a Bunny in the Chicago and New York Playboy Clubs and a Bunny Mother in New York. In December 1962 Sheralee starred on PLAYBOY's only front-and-back cover. To realize Art Paul's concept, Pompeo Posar and freelance lensman Bob Hart draped a 40-foot roll of paper in a U shape, placed the Playmate in its center and aimed identical cameras at both sides of Sheralee. Six hours and 15 rolls of film later, they had their cover (left).

Miss August 1961 *Karen Thompson*

When a shapely mannequin started appearing in PLAYBOY ads featuring décolleté fashions by Margie Douglas, readers inquired who the model was. Staffers tracked her down and persuaded her to pose for the center of the magazine. Meet Playmate Karen Thompson (below), a Los Angeles model and television performer.



Miss September 1961

Christa Speck

1962 Playmate of the Year

One of the more celebrated Playmates of her time, Christa was born in Germany and was working as a bank secretary when she was discovered by PLAYBOY. She became a Bunny in Chicago, lived in the Playboy Mansion and was featured in each of the magazine's Sixties pictorials about life at Hef's place: 1961's *Playmate Holiday House Party* (for which she looks over transparencies with the boss, right), 1963's *Playmate Pillow Fight and Bunnies* and 1966's *The Playboy Mansion*. Christa set a fan-mail record for her day, so it's not surprising that she was selected by editors and readers as one of their ten favorite Playmates from the magazine's first decade. For 36 years, she has been married to puppeteer-producer Marty Krofft, with whom she has raised three daughters in Los Angeles. That's Christa today at left.



HEF
on

CHRISTA SPECK

Christa was a special favorite of mine, and of the readers as well. We had an affair during the shooting of the *Playmate Holiday House Party* pictorial. She left an unhappy relationship to move into the Playboy Mansion and become a Chicago Bunny (right).





Miss October 1961 *Jean Cannon*

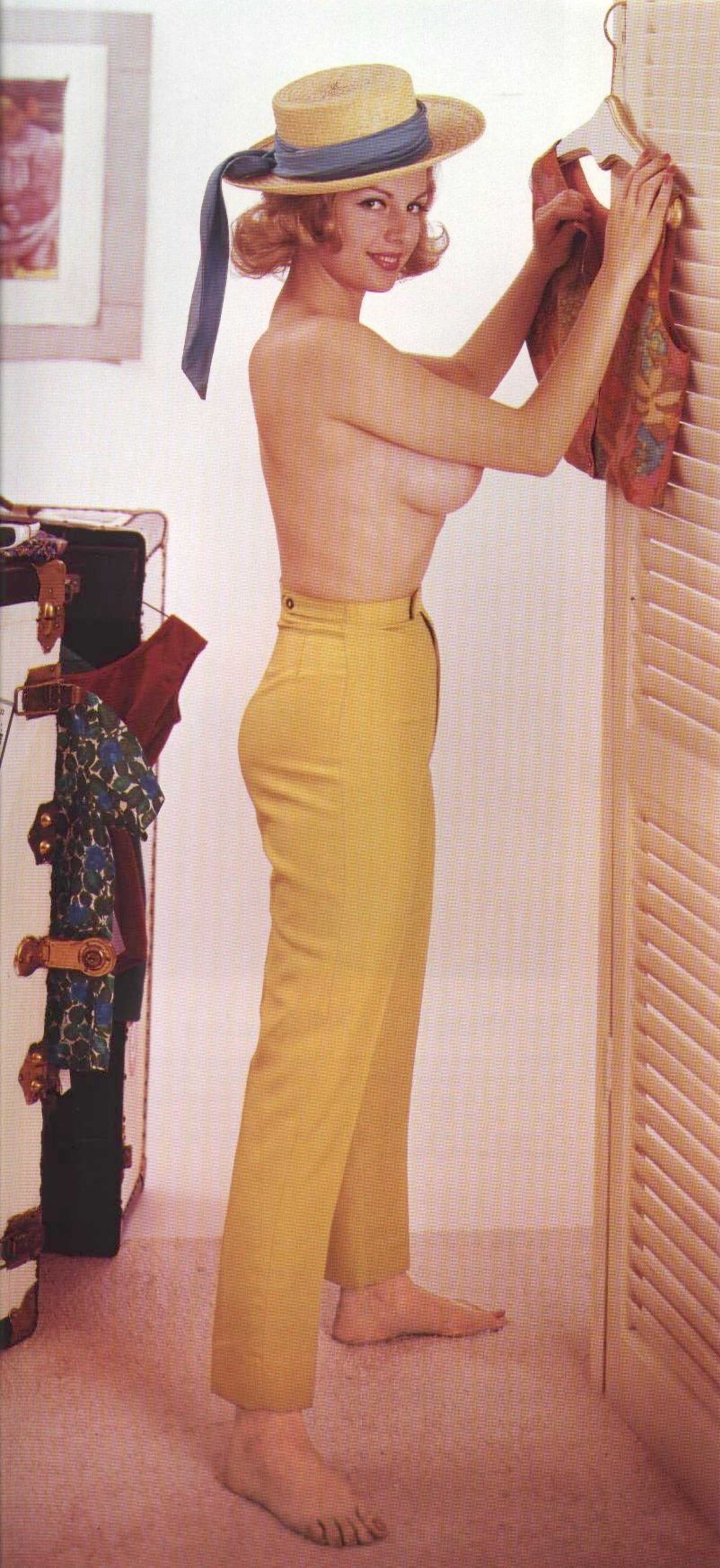
"I posed for PLAYBOY only because my husband said I'd never make it," Jean (left) confesses. "I met Hef at a party and he asked if I'd like to try for PLAYBOY. My husband said, 'What, are you crazy? He just wants to look at your boobs. Only 12 women a year make it, and you're not good enough.' So I said, 'The heck with you, I'll try anyway.'" That husband is history, but Jean had a full career as a Bunny in Chicago, Miami, New York, New Orleans and Jamaica. "And I did a lot of movies—*Goldfinger*, *Tony Rome*—and TV, and was a contestant on shows like *I've Got a Secret* and *To Tell the Truth*." Jean is now doing market research in Florida. "I love to talk," she says. "I've been talking to people all my life and now I'm getting paid to do it."



Miss November 1961 *Dianne Danford*

Skeet shooter Dianne (above) was a champ at downing clay pigeons. But animal lovers will be pleased to note that she didn't bag the tiger whose pelt was on display in her centerfold pose (below), the tenth shot by Mario Casilli. Perhaps she was more attuned to animals of the leporine variety: She signed on as a Bunny at the Los Angeles Playboy Club on Sunset Boulevard.





Miss December 1961

Lynn Karrol

The skydiving Miss Karrol parachuted her way into the hearts of readers (and into a Bunny Costume at the New York Playboy Club, above). In actor Peter Sellers' well-remembered *Sellers Mimes the Movie Lovers* (April 1964), Lynn played the sex kitten on the keys for a send-up of *The World of Henry Orient* (bottom).

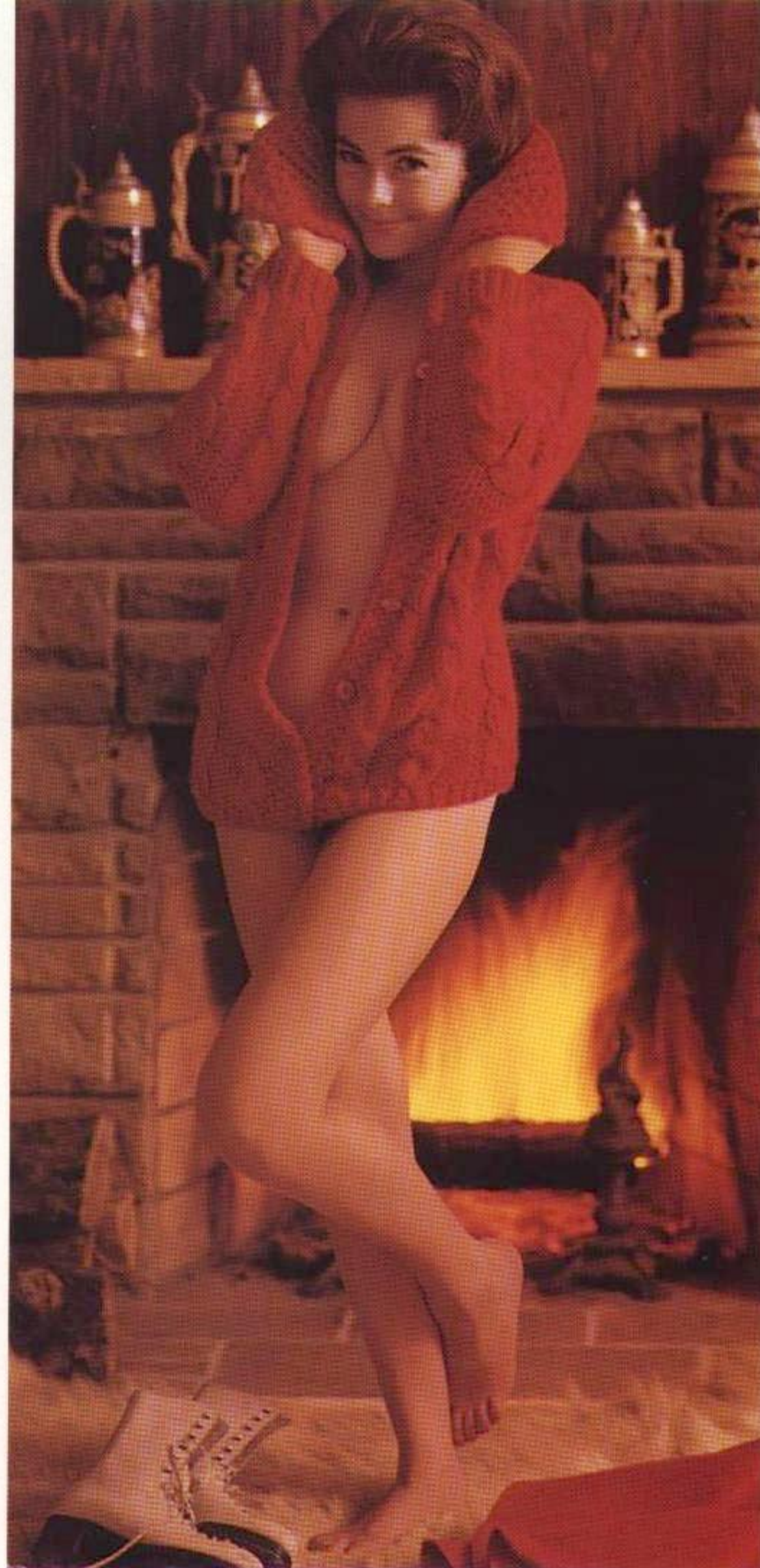
ART DIRECTOR

ART PAUL *on*

LYNN KARROL

In 1962 the Art Directors Club in Norfolk, Virginia—site of the country's largest naval base—was presenting me with a Bold Step Award. When they found out I could bring a Playmate with me, it was like the entire Navy stormed down and tried to please her. We had lunch in the mess hall of the carrier *Enterprise* and were presented with a petition, signed by several thousand enlisted men, requesting that the ship be rechristened *USS Playboy*. Lynn was not only beautiful but very intelligent; she had great answers to all the questions the men fired at her.





Miss February 1962 *Kari Knudsen*

When it comes to foreign-born beauties, Norway, a scenic but sparsely populated land of some four million souls, has contributed more than its share to PLAYBOY's centerfold pages. First of the lot: Kari Knudsen (above) from Romsdal. Photographed after a spin on the ice in Central Park, Kari demonstrated that she was a good skate.

Miss January 1962 *Merle Pertile*

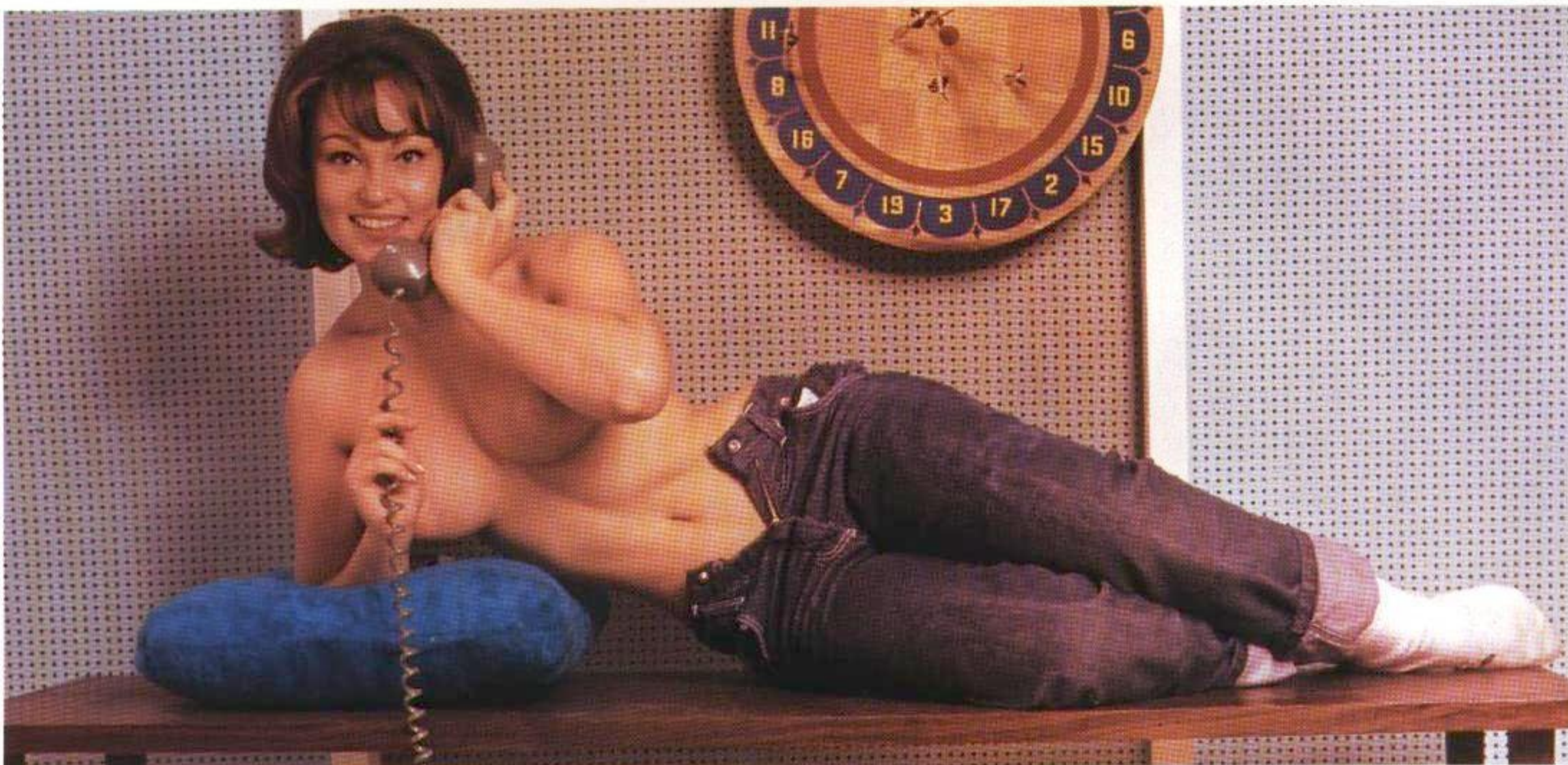
Merle was born in Whittier, California but grew up in the Midwest. She was a regular on *Playboy's Penthouse* and met Hefner on the set of the show. In the early Sixties she returned to California to pursue an acting career. She won a contract with Universal Pictures and appeared on several television shows, including *77 Sunset Strip*, *The Tab Hunter Show* and *Ensign O'Toole*.



Miss March 1962

Pamela Anne Gordon

Vancouver, British Columbia photographer Ken Honey was to become one of PLAYBOY's most valued Playmate scouts. Pamela Anne (left), his first discovery, was also the magazine's first Canadian centerfold. That earned her a nod in *Liberty* magazine as one of Canada's celebrities of the year. Pam became a Chicago Bunny (right) and lived at the Playboy Mansion.



Miss April 1962

Roberta Lane

Roberta (above) was a 19-year-old bobby-soxer from Queens who worked as a secretary in Manhattan. The job, a magazine staffer noted at the time, helped keep her in good standing with Ma Bell. Roberta, who has a receiver to her ear in all but one of her Playmate photos, admitted to a hefty telephone habit.

Miss May 1962

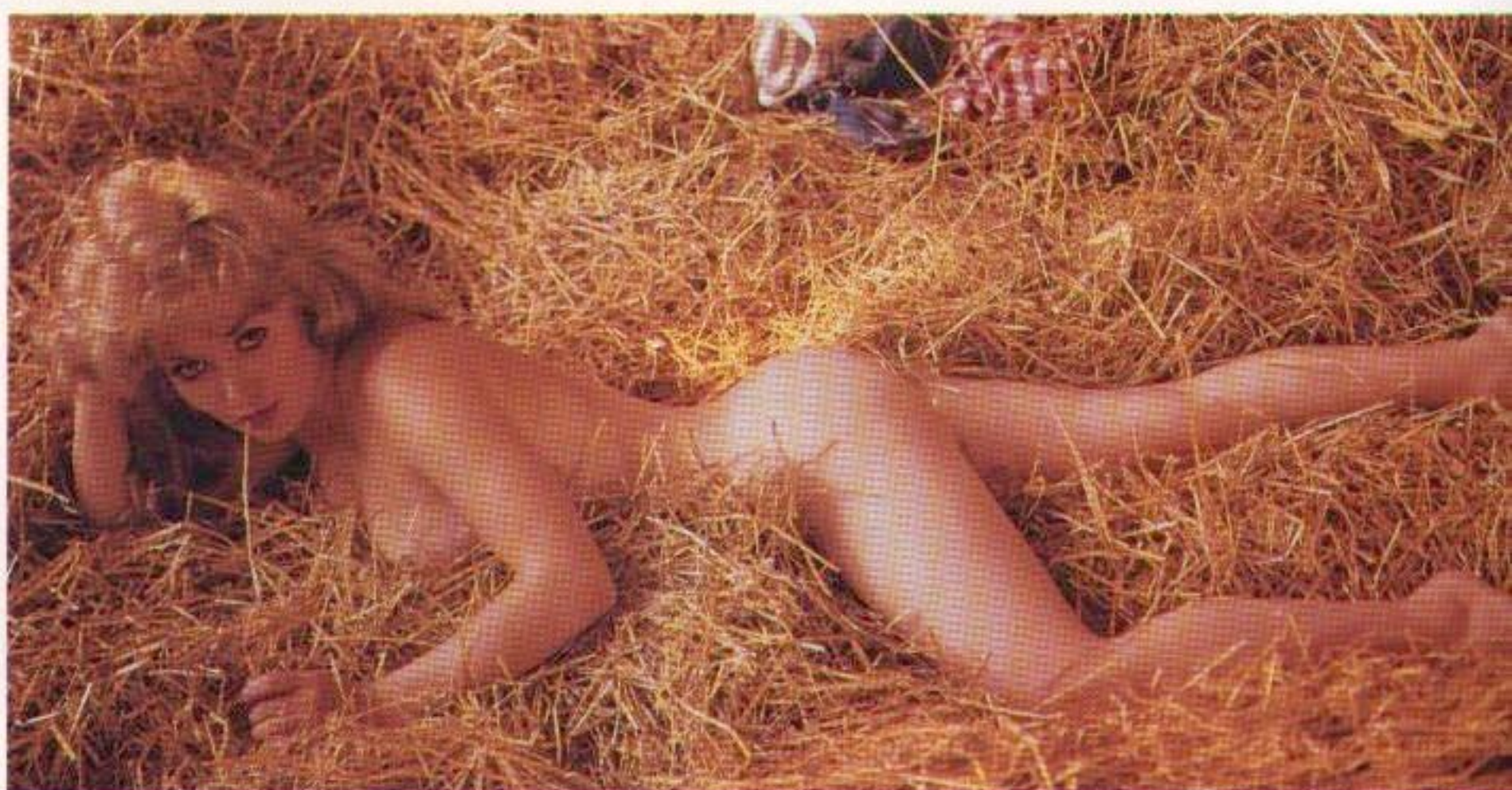
Marya Carter

Drama classes, scuba diving and water skiing off Southern California's shores kept Marya (right) occupied while awaiting a break in show business. After her PLAYBOY bow, she was cast in Jackie Gleason's weekly show and signed for a bit in the film *The New Interns*.



Miss June 1962 *Merissa Mathes*

June's *Bicycle Belle* took her Schwinn for a spin through the California countryside, followed—on his one and only centerfold shoot—by photographer Glenn Otto. A graduate of Santa Monica City College, Merissa (right) starred in local theater productions and won a part in the movie *The Phantom Planet*.



Miss July 1962 *Unne Terjesen*

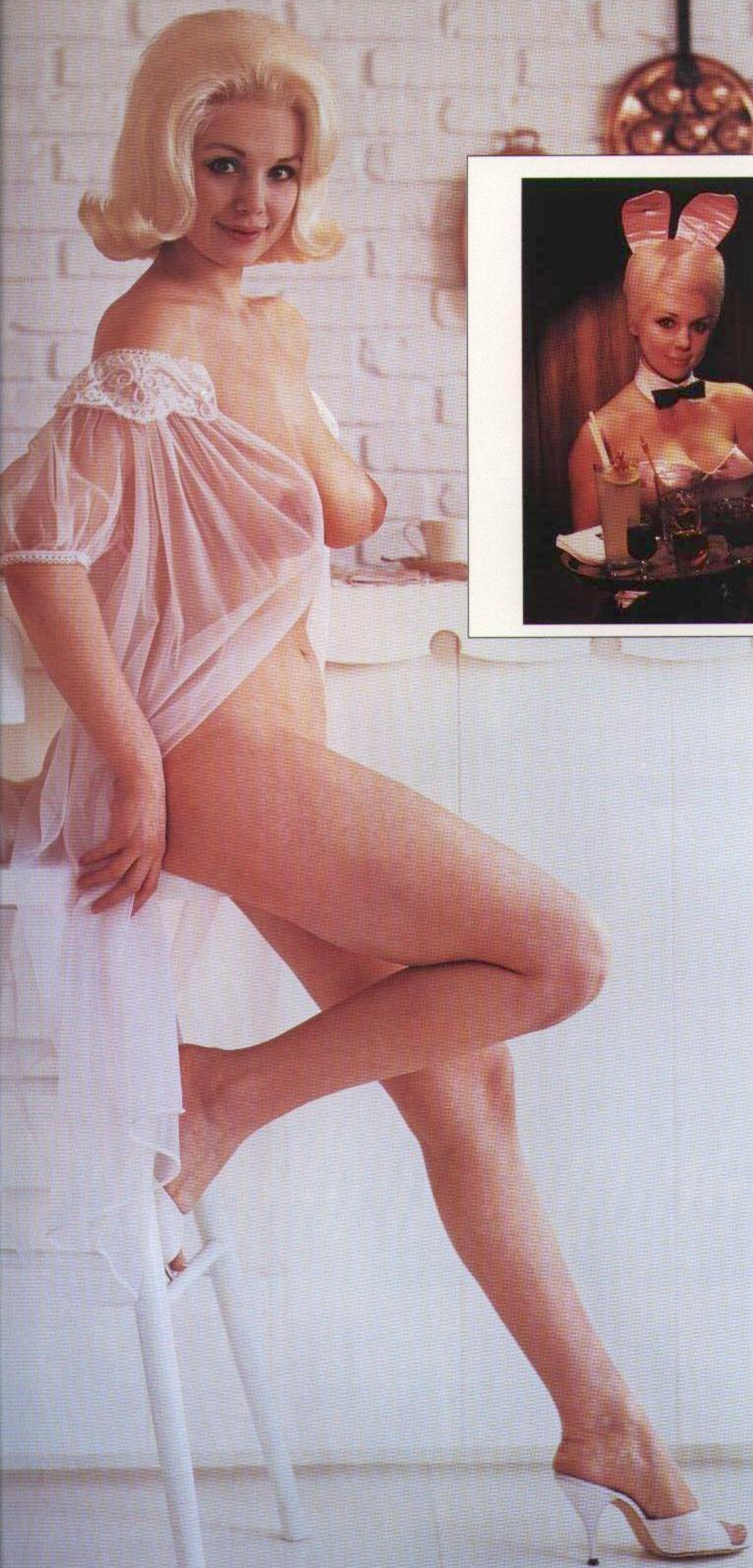
Second Canadian resident, second Playmate of Norwegian birth and second find by lensman Ken Honey, Unne (above) was spotted across the counter of a Vancouver, British Columbia department store, where she worked as a salesgirl. Before emigrating from her homeland, she was a runner-up in 1960's Miss Norway competition. After her centerfold experience, she became a fashion model.



Miss September 1962

Mickey Winters

"It's been great being a Playmate," says Mickey (left), who recently sold her bar and restaurant in Lake Tahoe and moved with her husband to a lakeside retreat. "Believe it or not, I still get fan mail. And everyone I meet who finds out about PLAYBOY starts asking me questions: 'How did they do this? How did they do that? What about Hefner?' By the way, I always thought he was the greatest. Look at him: I'm still invited down there after all these years. How many ex-bosses would do that?" When her centerfold (above) appeared, staffers described Mickey as relaxing in the hay. Sharp-eyed readers wrote in that the background in question was actually straw.



IN THE TWO-DECADES SINCE the first Playboy Club bunnies took over the restaurant scene in Chicago, 24 of this magazine's prettiest Playmates have taken the beautiful Bunny trail to fun, travel and excitement as highly paid hostesses in our ever-lengthening chain of luxurious key clubs. With this issue we present a new twist on the honorary Playmate-to-Bunny progression, the ingenious Jan Roberts — the first (but undoubtedly not the last) Playmate to be discovered among the hush hoops already decorating club premises. Like hundreds of beauties from every part of the U.S. and several foreign countries, Brooklyn-born, Toledo-bred Jan worked Chicago specifically in hopes of landing a job at the Playboy Club. Her credentials (executive girl Friday for the Juhl Advertising Agency of Elkhart, Indiana, and honor graduate of a two-year medical technology course in the same city) were impressive enough to earn her a Bunny berth. Although the lustrous (\$925-\$5) arrangement of her 120 compact pounds on a five-foot-five frame tends to belie it, Miss August prefers mental exercise to physical; she thrives on chess and bridge bouts, reads omnivorously (mostly books on mathematics and statistics, dabbles in graphology, and earnestly pursues landscapes which, like, she believes, "an unfortunate resemblance to my favorite foods — spaghetti and cheese lasagna." She can't shake a sloppy pool, views headshots with suspicious frown, eyes, loves show-on-up sex flicks, feminine frills and Louis XVI antiques. Affectionate by nature, she is apt to greet friends with warm hugs and double-check kisses. Jan regards her surreal welcome to the club duties with honest satisfaction. "I'm interested in a show business career," she says. "As a Bunny, I'm already leading a show biz kind of life. It's a big step on the way up." For a touching view of rising and shining Jan, consult the follow-up our breakfasting Bunny-Playmate is shown marking her day — and brightening ours — with an r.v.p. smile.

silver-blonde jan roberts
cottons to the bunny business
at chicago's playboy club

BUNNY HUG



Like her sister bunnies at Playboy Clubs around the country, Jan enjoys being "on" before admiring eyes of householders.



Miss August 1962

Jan Roberts

Still another first for 1962: the first Bunny to become a Playmate. Twenty-four Playmates had joined the Bunny brigade after gracing the centerfold, but Jan Roberts worked in the Chicago Playboy Club before becoming Miss August. She had graduated with honors from a medical technology course in Elkhart, Indiana, but Jan jettisoned laboratory test tubes for Rabbit-Headed swizzle sticks. Like her fellow cottontails in Chicago and, later, New Orleans, Jan frequently participated in volunteer work.

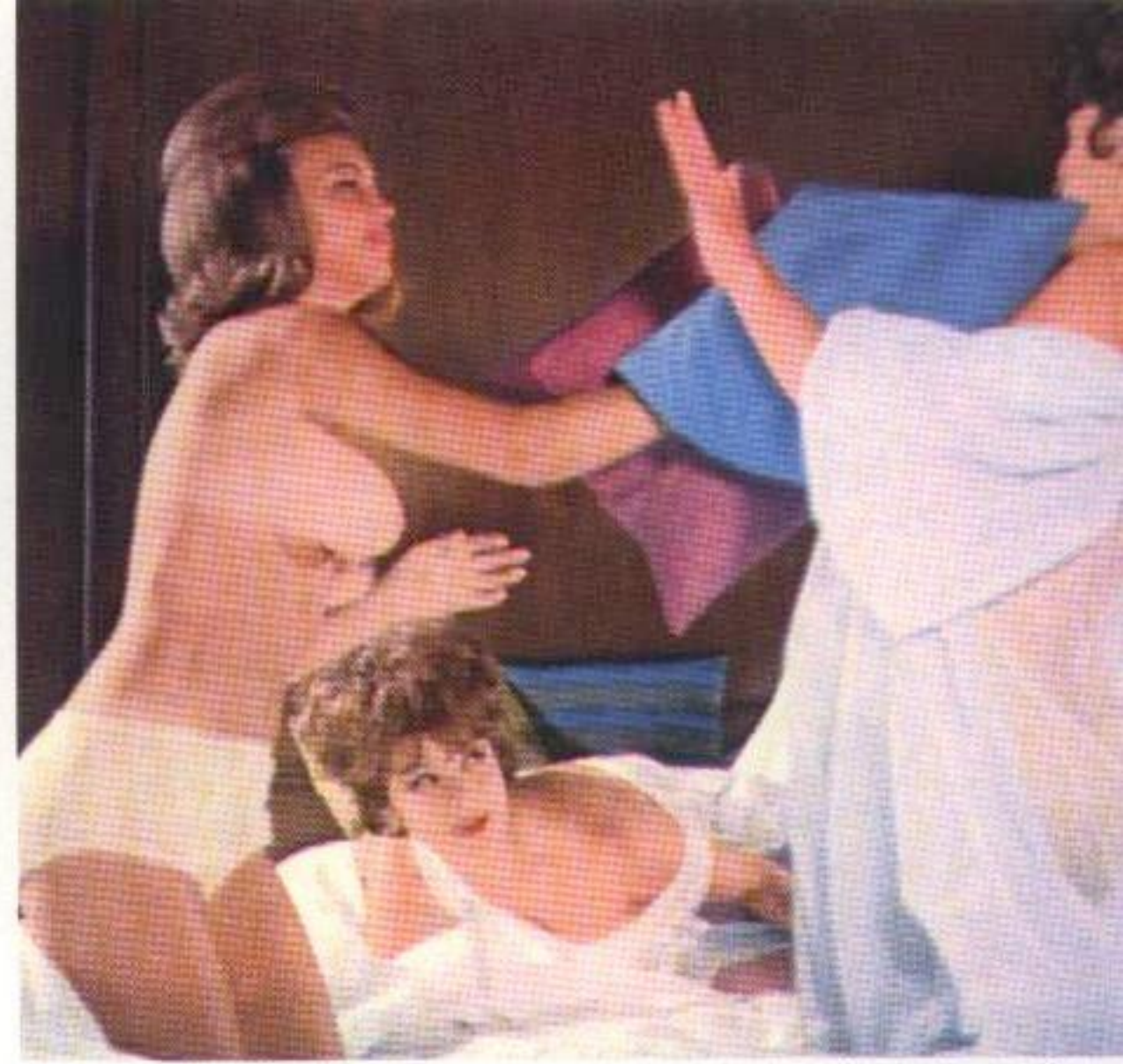


HEF *on* LIFE AT THE MANSION

The Playboy Mansion was quite a swinging scene in the Sixties—a Disneyland for adults. With so many celebrities, Playmates and Bunnies staying at the Mansion, it was easy to throw a party—and we threw one almost every night. They usually started at midnight and went on till dawn. The kitchen and bars were open around the clock, so you could order anything you wanted to eat or drink at any time of the day or night. It was a Jay Gatsby world. You had no real sense of time or place when you were in the Chicago Mansion. Norman Mailer compared a visit there to an otherworldly experience: "It was like being on a spaceship," he said, "outward bound."

Life at the Playboy Mansion

Chicago's 70-room Playboy Mansion was not only Hefner's home, office and site of the town's greatest parties, it also provided living quarters for Bunnies and Playmates. The cottontails resided in the fourth-floor Bunny Dorm and the centerfolds stayed in color-coded guest rooms—the Red Room, the Blue Room and so on—while they were in town shooting pictorials or doing Playmate promotions. In the photo on the opposite page, Playmates Sheralee Conners, Christa Speck and Delores Wells are in the Red Room getting dressed in the January 1966 *Playboy Mansion* pictorial, one of several features that gave readers a vicarious taste of life at the Mansion. At right, Christa, Carrie Radison and Delores face off for *Playmate Pillow Fight*. Below, Allison Parks checks out the entrance to the pool's cave, dubbed by *Time* magazine the "Woo Grotto," in the 1966 pictorial. To kick off 1961's *Playmate Holiday House Party*, Hefner treated guests (bottom left, from left, a shadowed Elizabeth Ann Roberts, Joyce Nizzari, Teddi Smith and Joni Mattis) to a night at the Chicago Playboy Club. Later in the weekend, Christa and Delores toasted themselves in the sunroom (bottom right).



Miss November 1962

Avis Kimble

"Rara Avis" is what a PLAYBOY headline writer dubbed Miss Kimble (below), a poetry-loving photo stylist. The Latin term means "rare bird," and it did describe Avis, who revealed her sharp head for business when she opened her own boutique in Chicago's Old Town while simultaneously working as a Playboy Club Bunny (right).



Miss October 1962 *Laura Young*

"I shot a 72 the other day," Laura (above) confided to her Playmate interviewer. "Of course, that was before I reached the sixth green." An ardent golfer nonetheless, she was photographed swinging away at a Midwestern country club. Something about her form clicked with editors, who placed her in a three-way tie for Playmate of the Year consideration (other nominees: Avis Kimble and June Cochran, the eventual winner). Readers voted her one of their ten favorite centerfolds of the first decade, presented in the December 1964 issue. By that time, Laura was a professional model.

PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on LAURA YOUNG

Laura Young was my first Playmate shooting, but Jan Roberts' centerfold was published first. Shooting a centerfold always takes time. If you're lucky, it takes three or four days, sometimes two weeks. Laura Young's was difficult, for technical reasons. I did it with available light, only the light from the window in the PLAYBOY studio at 232 East Ohio Street in Chicago, and the speed of the film was very low, ten ASA. I remember it well. My exposure was one-eighth of a second and the diaphragm setting was eight.



Miss December 1962

June Cochran

1963 Playmate of the Year

Back home in Indiana, she represented her state in both the Miss Universe and Miss World contests, but she was still a wide-eyed farm girl nicknamed "Baby June" when she became a *PLAYBOY* centerfold. Now a grandmother living in Wisconsin—she married while in her teens—June looks back on a career of promoting auto racing on behalf of the United States Auto Club. Her second husband was a race driver; two sons became stock-car drivers and her daughter, now 14, is a high school honor student who "beat me out. She won the Miss Wisconsin title in the Little Miss America contest when she was only four." June, who was a Bunny (inset) and a model for the creators of the *Little Annie Fanny* strip, loved her *PLAYBOY* experience. "If I had it to do all over again, I still would. I wish my sisters had."

PLAYMATE

JUNE COCHRAN on MARIO CASILLI
and POMPEO POSAR

I was so petrified that it took Mario three weeks to get my centerfold. Finally, to stop my shaking, he put a Christmas ornament in my hand. I was still nervous when Pompeo shot me for Playmate of the Year (above). I didn't look it, but I was seven and a half months pregnant. He told me I could be just like a shoe up there, and I said, "But I don't feel like a shoe." When you see Pompeo, tell him, "Thank you but no thank you, I still don't feel like a shoe."



Miss January 1963 *Judi Monterey*

Petite (5'1") Miss January (above) was already an established model when pioneer pin-up photographer Peter Gowland shot her centerfold in the California hillside home he still shares with his wife and partner, Alice. "Judi was such a tiny little thing," he recalls. "She later married a singer."



Miss February 1963 *Toni Ann Thomas*

While running an errand for her stepfather at a hardware store, Toni (above) was approached by a local photographer.

He took a few shots of her in a bikini, sent them into PLAYBOY and, she recalls now, "within two weeks they had accepted me. I was totally shocked. But I decided to do it and use the funds I got to go to college and further my education in design—and that has been my career of choice for most of my adult life."

Today Toni (right) heads her own highly successful Southern California firm specializing in hotel interior design, accepts the occasional modeling assignment and is writing a book about the fitness program she calls yorobics, a combination of yoga and aerobics.



Miss March 1963

*Adrienne
Moreau*

After two years in academe, Adrienne (below) had chucked her Rutgers studies in the diplomatic arts in favor of a Manhattan modeling career. But the skills she had learned in languages and political science (plus a childhood spent with French-born parents) soon paid off with a job as an interpreter and guide at the New York World's Fair.



Miss May 1963

Sharon Cintron

Sharon (right) told a magazine staffer she'd rather be a hair stylist than an actress, but fate (via *PLAYBOY*) intervened. "The producers of *Burke's Law* were looking for Playmates to be on the program. Ozzie Nelson saw me on that show, called me to do another one and that started it all off." Over her 19-year career in television, she appeared in more than 60 productions, ranging from guest shots on *Wild Wild West* to two years as Robert Blake's girlfriend on *Baretta*. She has a son from her first marriage, to a Hollywood agent, and a daughter with her present husband, an Arizona contractor.



Miss April 1963 *Sandra Settani*

The last of six centerfolds photographed by the legendary Bunny Yeager (seen taking a break with her model at right), Sandra wore a sailor's cap—period—for her pose as Miss April (below). A vacation trip to Miami Beach lured the Wisconsin-born, Illinois-schooled beauty to the shores of Biscayne Bay, where she boarded a cabin cruiser for a seaworthy Playmate pictorial.



Miss June 1963 *Connie Mason*

"PLAYBOY has blessed me in so many ways," muses Connie, whose durable modeling career spans more than three decades. It started when—as a young divorcée with two kids to support—she applied for a job as a Bunny at the Miami Playboy Club. "I was terrified that first night. Then some man gave me a \$100 tip, and when I left the Club I said, 'I have to do this! This is a great opportunity!'" As the Camera Bunny, "I went from earning \$90 a week at the cosmetics counter of a department store and not being able to afford a newspaper to making in excess of a couple hundred dollars a night." With the profits, Connie bought a top-of-the-line Cadillac and took off on a vacation trip to Chicago. It would change her life. "The car got stolen and I was sort of grounded in Chicago. So I took Playboy Club talent director Shelly Kasten up on his offer of a job at the Chicago Club [right]." That led to a chance encounter at a Playboy Mansion party with designer Oleg Cassini, who hooked her up with model-agency honcho Eileen Ford in New York; a two-year relationship with Oleg's brother Igor (a.k.a. columnist Cholly Knickerbocker); and eventually marriage to, separation from and reunion with Kasten. "I moved to California 20 years ago to be with Shelly, who was producing shows out here. I was terrified of leaving New York and all my connections, but I was more afraid not to. Because if I miss the love of my life, the rest is meaningless." She needn't have feared: Modeling continues, as does her new career in interior design. She has kept her old friends, including Hefner, and made new ones, such as Ronald Reagan (below right), introduced to her by Secret Service agents who attend her church in suburban Los Angeles. For a different side of Connie, check out her no-budget cult movies, *Blood Feast* and *Two Thousand Maniacs*.



PLAYMATE *CONNIE MASON* on *POMPEO POSAR*



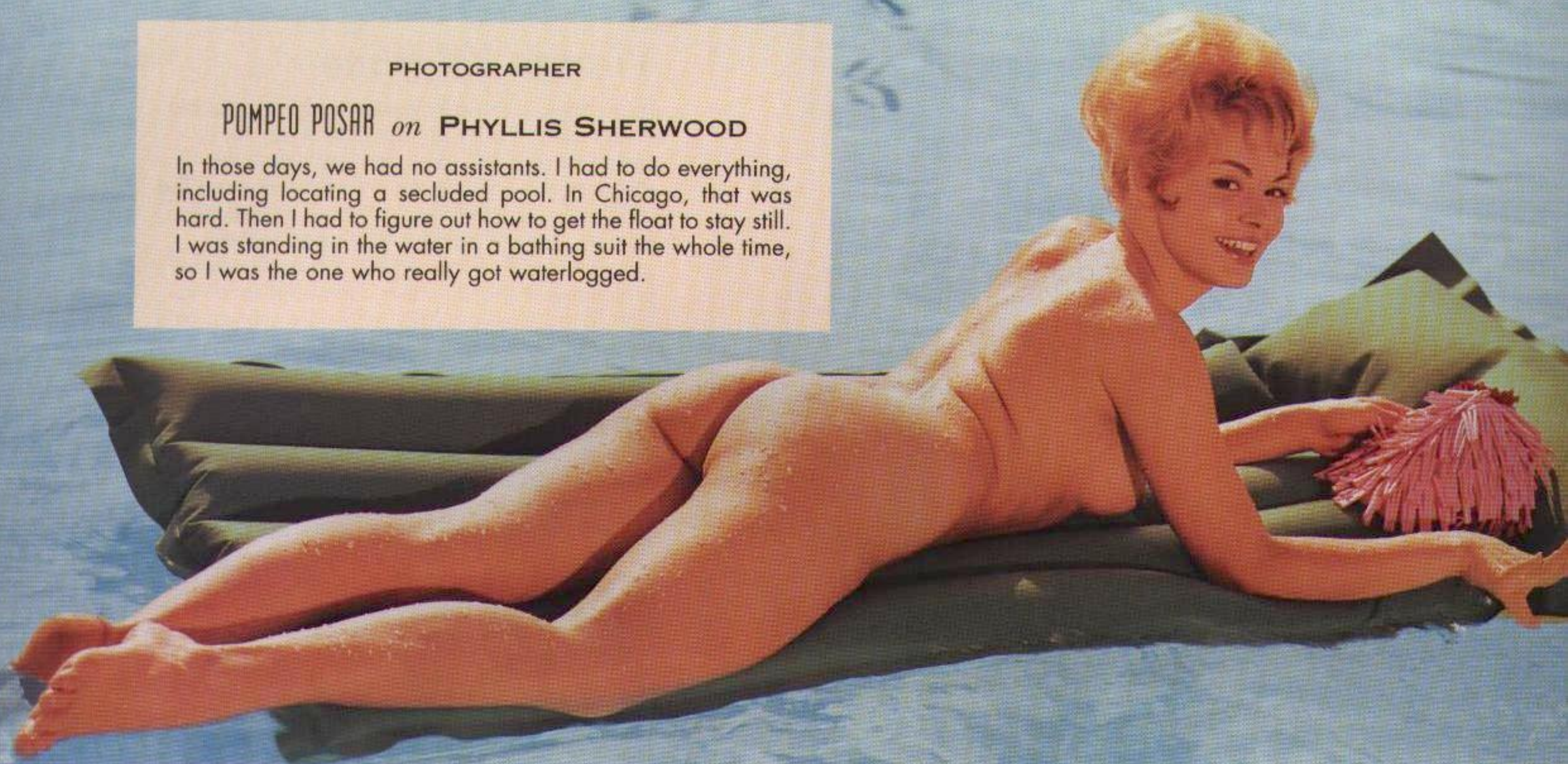
It took Pompeo three days of shooting to even get my brassiere off! I was so shy that I had him and Associate Picture Editor Bev Chamberlain turn around while I crawled under the blanket. The only thing that really showed in the picture was my left hip.



PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR *on* PHYLLIS SHERWOOD

In those days, we had no assistants. I had to do everything, including locating a secluded pool. In Chicago, that was hard. Then I had to figure out how to get the float to stay still. I was standing in the water in a bathing suit the whole time, so I was the one who really got waterlogged.



Miss August 1963

*Phyllis
Sherwood*

Photographed in a Chicago pool (above), Phyllis told PLAYBOY that a swim did wonders for her morale. "I like to stay in until I'm thoroughly waterlogged." When Phyllis confessed she wanted to be a Playmate, her mother said no. Enter Mr. and Mrs. Pompeo Posar, who soothed all trepidation, and Mom ended up appearing in Miss August's picture story. By the time her centerfold appeared, Vic Damone fan Phyllis (left) had married a Chicago nightclub owner, "and we're still together," she reports from her home in Florida. Having raised two sons and a daughter, she and her husband are selling their beachfront home and looking at ranch property where they can keep horses. "I'm old enough now to do something foolish," she explains.

PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR *on*
CONNIE MASON

Connie was very beautiful, with long hair, but it was hard to get her to do the centerfold. She said, "I don't show my boobs." She always covered them with her hair. Honest to God, in all our shooting only once—by accident—did I see her boobs. By December, Connie revealed more in *Editors' Choice* (left).

Miss July 1963

Carrie Enwright

A student of cosmetology who, as photographer Ron Vogel accurately recalls, "had a phenomenal figure," lifelong Californian Carrie (right) was among the guests at Playboy's 25th Anniversary Playmate Reunion.





Miss September 1963

Victoria Valentino

These days, Victoria Valentino wears a great big smile (inset). That wasn't the case when her centerfold (left) was shot. The day before the shooting, she had learned she was pregnant. The child's Afro-Cuban father had been emotionally abusive, and she said his blows had turned physical. It didn't occur to Victoria to discuss her problem with *PLAYBOY* either during her shooting with Mario Casilli or later, when she worked as a Bunny at the Los Angeles Club. "Mario was the bright light, the wholesome guy in the middle of what was happening in my life," she says now. "But abused women are afraid to talk about their dirty little secret. They're put in the position that somehow it's their fault, or that they'll be killed if they try to leave." Until the O.J. Simpson trial, says Victoria, "I couldn't even talk about my own



experience without shaking so badly I could hardly get the words out." But the not-guilty verdict "helped me find my voice." In an essay for the *Los Angeles Times*, she wrote, "Women everywhere woke up this morning with the chilling realization that our cries for help were swept under the rug. Mr. Simpson woke up this morning knowing he could batter, bruise

and butcher another woman in the future and get away with it." In the years that followed her *PLAYBOY* appearance—and her escape from the abusive relationship—Victoria earned several graduate degrees from the school of hard knocks. She was on the brink of a successful singing career when her only son—the one she was carrying when she posed—drowned at the age of six, sending her into an emotional tailspin. "I signed a recording contract and went into the studio, but it was like somebody had gutted me. I sang, but there was no conviction, no feeling." There followed therapy, a hippie phase, two more failed relationships—one of which left her on her own to run an Oregon goat farm—and a couple of cross-country moves. On the positive side are two daughters. Drawn to reconcile with her family after years of estrangement, Victoria returned to California and enrolled in a collegiate nursing program. "In 1986 I sang publicly for the first time in 17 years, at the graduation ceremony. When I finished, I held my guitar over my head and everyone cheered." After a spell as a hospice nurse, Victoria has found a new way to make lemonade from the lemons of her life. She has just completed training as a bereavement facilitator and, through the church she attends in Pasadena, will help launch a support group for those who have lost children. She's dating a doctor. And she's still drawn to the arts. "I went to an audition and the casting director said, 'I'm looking for an aging Mary Poppins type.' So I snapped open my umbrella and levitated." She got the part, in an interactive CD-ROM designed to help schoolchildren learn math.

Miss October 1963 *Christine Williams*

"I feel my life's kicked in at 51. And here's the killer: I look dynamite. As good as I did at 18 [below]." The spectacular six-footer, a former Las Vegas showgirl and Los Angeles Bunny, now raises Arabian horses, finds retirement pastures for aging steeds and has become a respected artist whose specialty is abstract stained-glass portraits (inset).



Miss November 1963

Terre Tucker

Terre (above), a onetime airline stewardess, came to Chicago from the West Coast to become a cottontail (below) and centerfold at the suggestion of comedian Lenny Bruce.

She moved to Florida and corresponded regularly with Hefner before her death from cancer in the early Nineties.



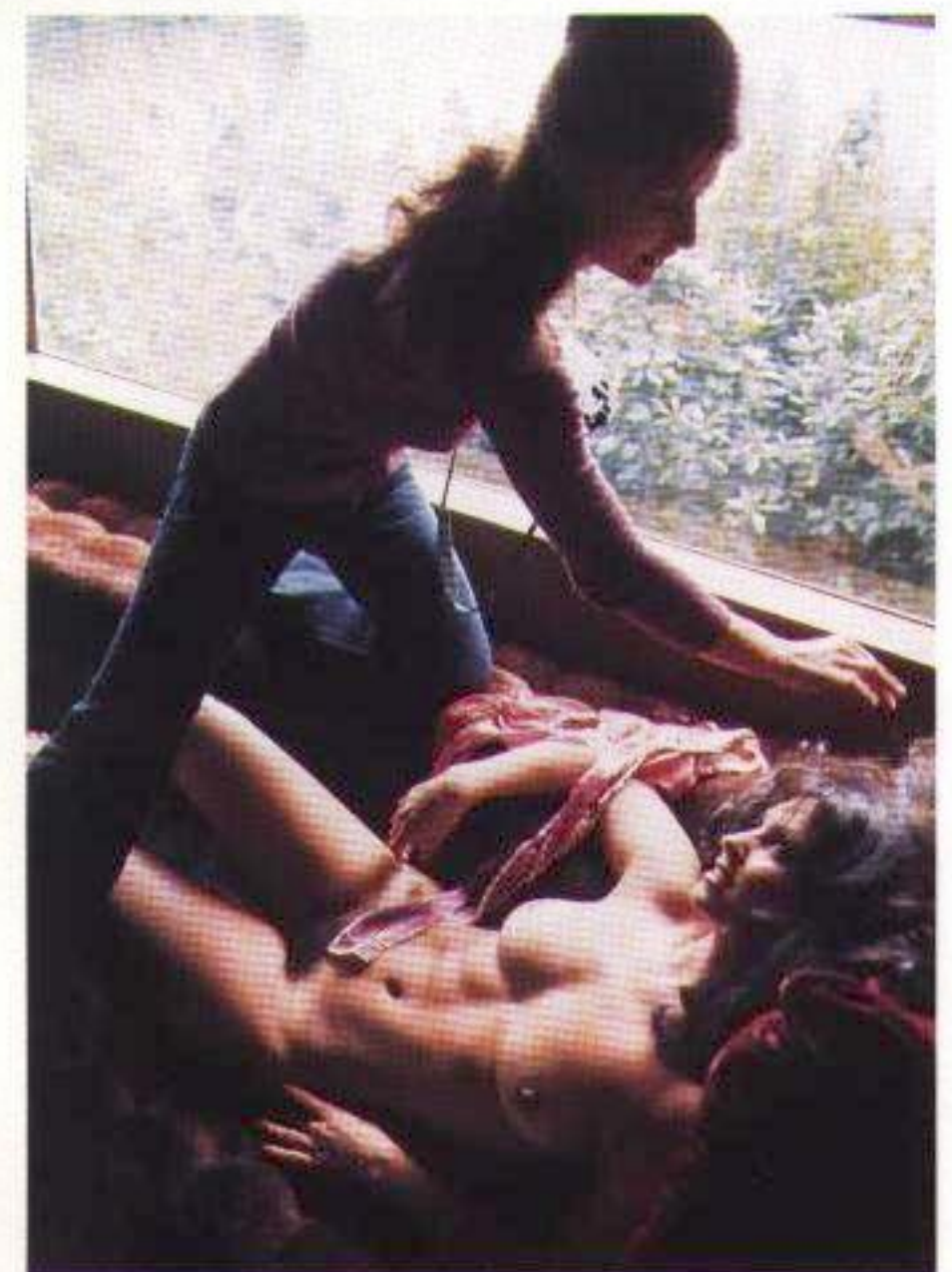
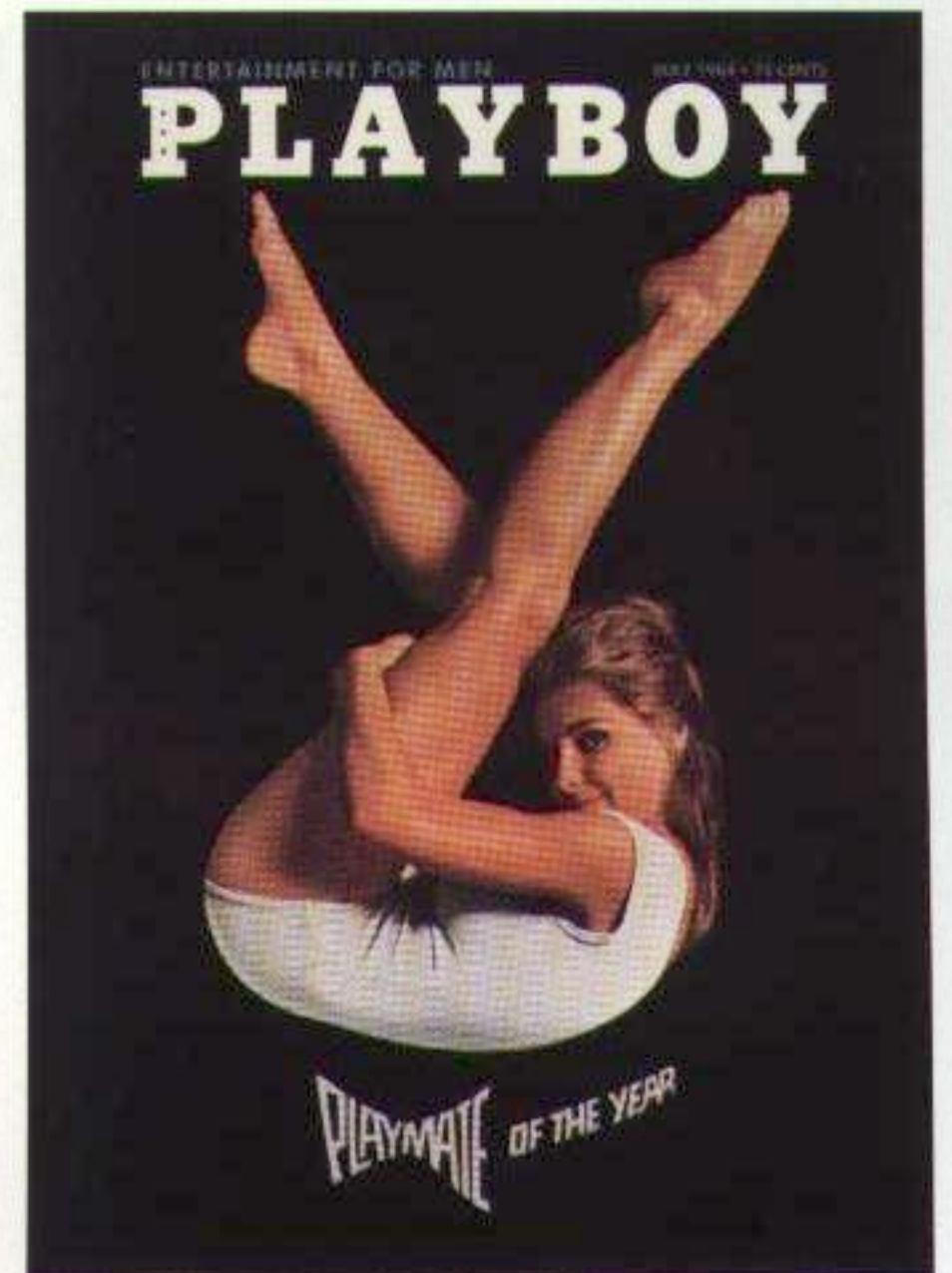


Miss December 1963

Donna Michelle

1964 Playmate of the Year

Donna was a dancer and California theater-arts major when she posed for the magazine. "Actually, I did it for a doghouse," she recalls. "I was about to be evicted because of my dog, and the Playmate fee provided the down payment on a house." For a time Donna dated Hef. "He's a charmer. I remember I took him to his first ballet, in Chicago, and he enjoyed it. I haven't seen him for years, since the Playmate Reunion in 1979 [bottom right]." As a result of her appearance in *PLAYBOY*, Donna got a part in *Mickey One* (she's with director Arthur Penn and star Warren Beatty, below left). Some scenes in the film were shot at the Playboy Mansion. There were other film roles, including a bit in *Beach Blanket Bingo*, but Donna decided to take up photography (recorded in April 1974's *Donna Clicks*, right center). Now living in rural Northern California in a home she designed and, in part, built herself—"I helped pour concrete and cut almost every piece of wood in the house"—Donna keeps her hand in at photography and also runs a catering business, "anything from a 15-course meal to dinner for 250 people. That way I can still indulge my creativity, and if the people don't like it, my dogs—a caboodle of poodles—will."



ART DIRECTOR

ART PAUL

on

DONNA MICHELLE

I had this idea for a cover with a girl posing in the shape of the Rabbit Head (top right), but I thought no model would be able to do it. I asked Donna and there was no problem. She got into the position with great ease and could still smile.



HEF on **DONNA MICHELLE**

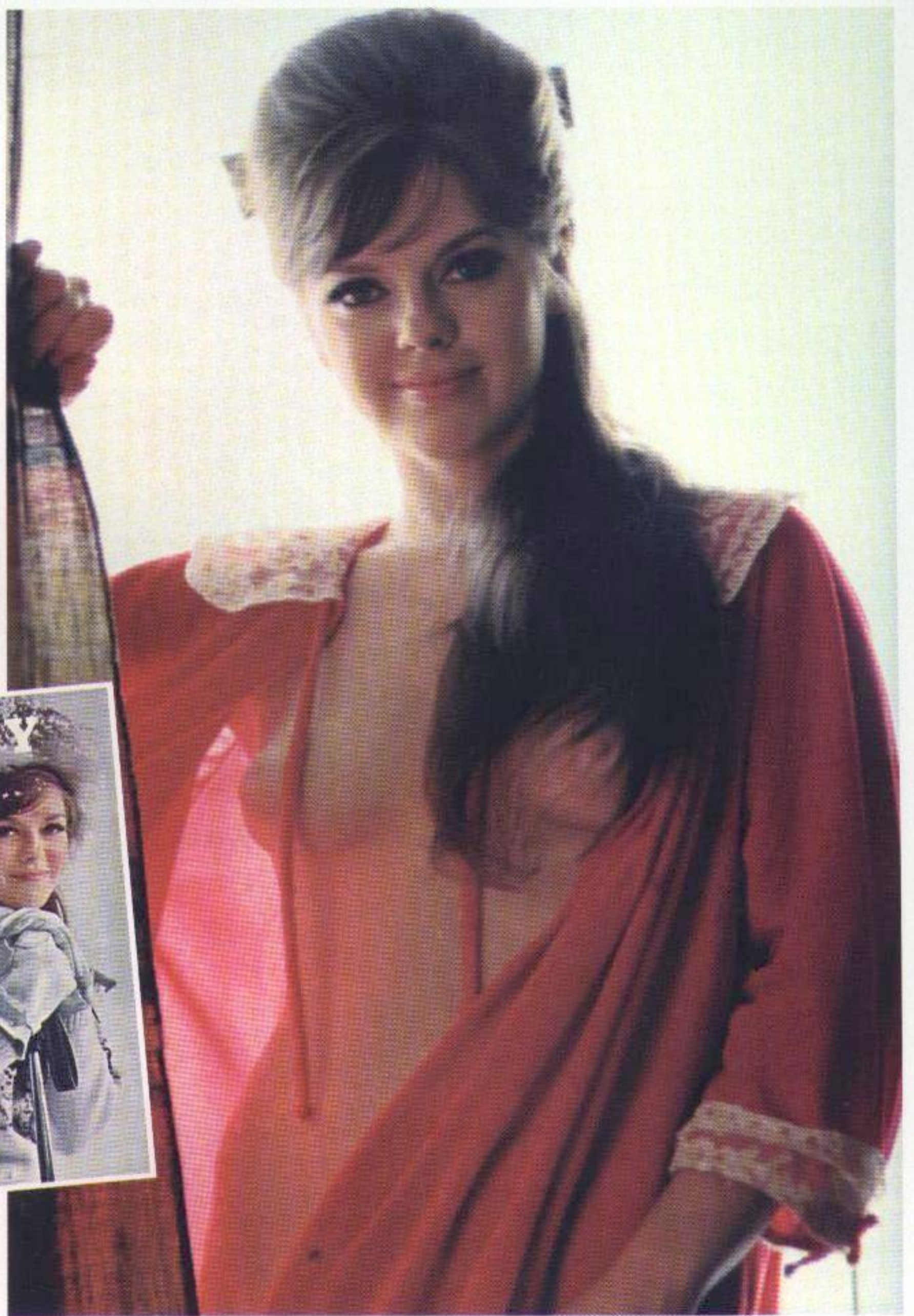
Donna was one of the most unforgettable women I've ever known. We had a passionate and all-too-brief affair. We took a private jet—a Jetstar identical to the one at the end of *Goldfinger*, where James Bond confronts his nemesis, Goldfinger, who is sucked out of the plane—to Jamaica for my first look at the resort Playboy was buying there. The photograph at top left was shot during our stay in Jamaica.



Miss January 1964

Sharon Rogers

That infectious smile is bestowed these days (inset) on fellow workers in a government agency in the Pacific Northwest, where former Bunny and PLAYBOY editorial assistant Sharon leads a quiet life as the mother of two grown sons. Sharon counts her years with PLAYBOY in Chicago and Los Angeles (where she was also a cot-tontail) as among the most important in her life. But she's modest about showing off her centerfold. "My cover is about the only picture I ever show anybody," she says. "But my sons are really proud that I was a Playmate. It's an elite club to be in."



Miss February 1964 Nancy Jo Hooper

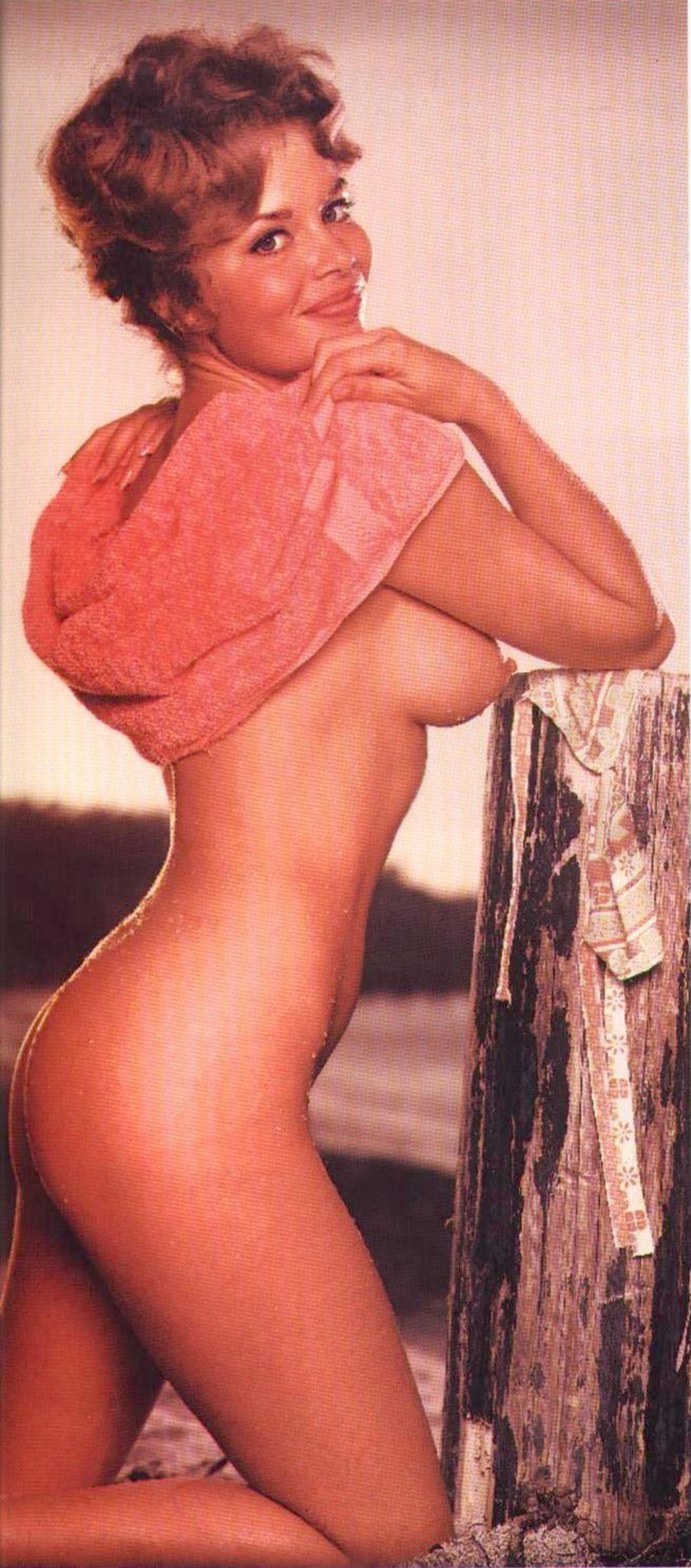
Nancy hailed from a Georgia hamlet so small that "six visitors would cause a traffic jam," so she asked PLAYBOY not to name it. Reasoning that "no one from PLAYBOY would ever find me here on his own," she took the initiative by mailing snapshots of herself to the magazine's headquarters in Chicago. Editors were quick to book her for a photo date (above).

PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR *on*

NANCY JO HOOPER

This sweet, wonderful girl from Georgia, Nancy Jo Hooper, I shot in the apartment of PLAYBOY photo staffer Bev Chamberlain. I had to put bricks under the sofa to raise it higher. I remember when I was shooting I asked her, "Can you give me a little bit more sexy look?" and she told me, "I don't know anything about sex." She was a virgin. Years later I took my wife to dinner at the restaurant in Savannah where we shot some of Nancy Jo's picture story. They had her photos on display.



Miss March 1964 *Nancy Scott*

Nancy (left) shared an apartment with her mother, a registered nurse, and was working as a medical technician in a California doctor's office when discovered by PLAYBOY. She became a Bunny and was among a select group of cottontails chosen to make the *Big Bunny Hop*, a flight linking the opening of the Los Angeles Playboy Club with that of the Playboy Club-Hotel in Ocho Rios, Jamaica (below left, she grabs a few z's onboard the jet). For 1979's *Playmates Forever!* feature (below right), she demonstrated that she still looked fab.



HEF
on

ASHLYN MARTIN

Ashlyn's name was inspired by a character in Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. She was an uncommonly well-read, bright young lady and a free spirit who lived at the Playboy Mansion in Chicago for a couple of years before moving to California.

Miss April 1964 *Ashlyn Martin*

Floridian Ashlyn (right) Bunny-hopped in Chicago for a time before migrating to California and the bright lights of television (*Burke's Law*, *The Joey Bishop Show*).





Miss May 1964

Terri Kimball

Terri (left), a Bunny at the Chicago Playboy Club (below), was saving for college tuition but managed to put aside enough in surplus tips to finance a trip to Cape Cod to visit her brothers, Biff, Rick and Bruce (below center), whom she hadn't seen in three years.



Miss June 1964

Lori Winston

Avid sailor Lori (above) told an interviewer she was saving up to buy a Tahiti ketch and sail around the world. But she settled for a more attainable goal by investing her Playmate modeling fee in an 18-foot day sailer, aboard which she could navigate the waters near her home in Long Beach, California.

Miss July 1964 *Melba Ogle*

A few years ago, Melba, her husband and then-teenage daughter visited the Playboy Club in Osaka, Japan. "Mom, you're hanging on the wall!" reported her daughter, who had passed Melba's centerfold on the way to the ladies' room. Melba laughs, recalling another incident when her Playmate pictures (right) showed up in an unexpected place. "My stepsister's son was going to Catholic school when my centerfold came out," she says, "and he took it to class for show-and-tell: 'This is my Auntie Melba.' My stepsister was in the mother superior's office for two hours." When her pictorial was shot, Melba combined dissimilar jobs: meat cutter in the morning, fashion model in the afternoon. Bringing things up to date, she reports: "I was a Bunny for a short time at the Los Angeles Club. I've been married 33 years, worked in real estate and done a number of things together with my husband. For the past four years we've lived in Las Vegas, where we have a business making custom lapel pins with company logos on them."



Miss August 1964

China Lee

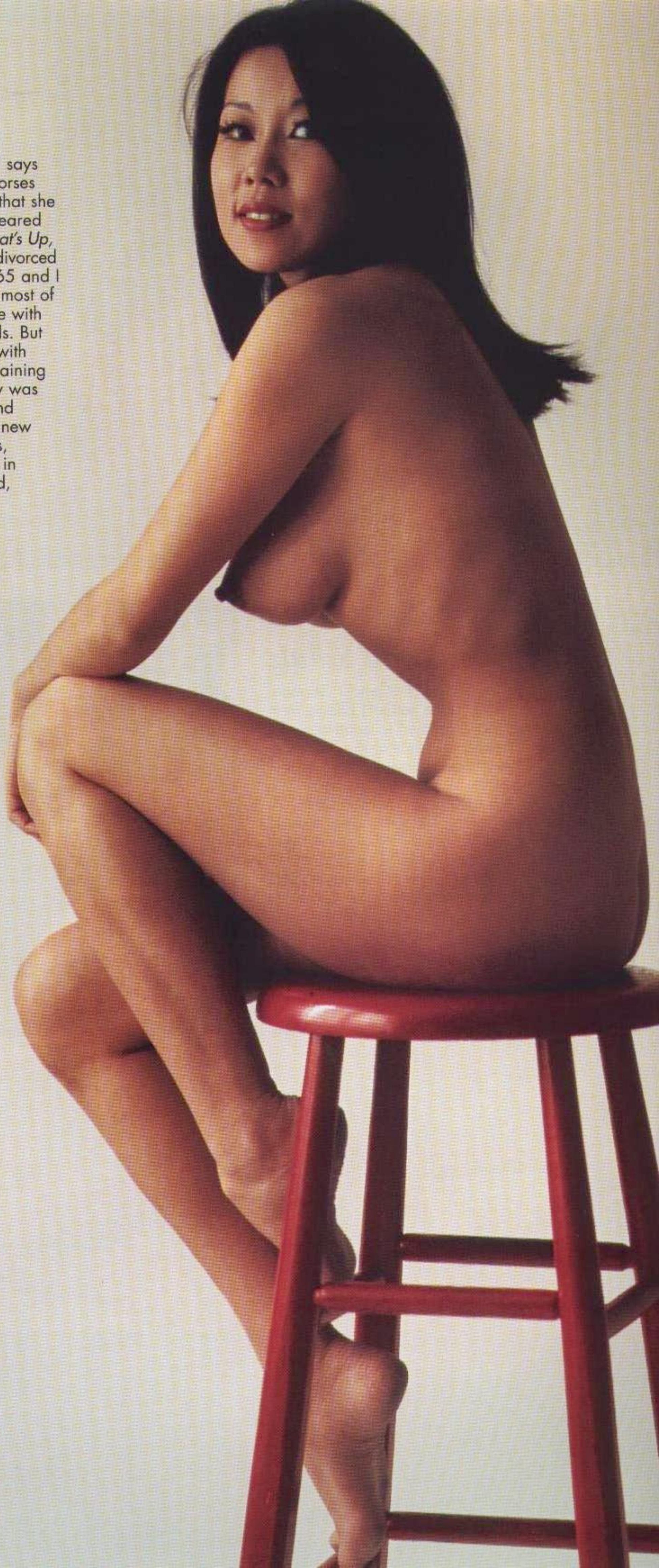
"For once in my life, I'm really enjoying my business," says China (rhymes with Tina), who owns a string of racehorses and describes herself as a professional gambler. Not that she wasn't involved in exciting ventures before. She appeared in movies, nabbing the title role in Woody Allen's *What's Up, Tiger Lily* (below). Married, divorced, remarried and redivorced from humorist Mort Sahl ("We were together from 1965 and I left him in 1990 or 1991"), she was his manager for most of those years. In the bottom picture, China and Mort are with Jo Collins at Jo's PMOY party. "We're still good friends. But I dislike show business thoroughly." During her years with *PLAYBOY*, China was arguably the company's busiest Training Bunny. "I was hired in New Orleans, where my family was in the restaurant business, so I knew all about liquor and service and things like that. So basically I would open new Clubs in New Orleans, New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Great Gorge, Lake Geneva—all the ones in the U.S. except Chicago and Miami. Jamaica I opened, London I didn't. It was hard work but a means to a great income."



PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on CHINA LEE

China is very smart, very business-minded. I tested her one year, but she had small boobs and the editors didn't care to use her for the centerfold. So maybe two years later, I get a call from her saying, "Pompeo, you remember me, I'm China Lee, and I got bigger boobs now." And I say, "How come?" and she says, "On Chinese women, they grow slowly." And when she came for a shooting she had beautiful breasts. In those days, you know, they were mostly their own.





Miss September 1964

Astrid Schulz

A multilingual (Dutch, French, German, English, "some Italian") beauty from Holland, Astrid (above) so captivated the magazine's editors that she landed in their second-ever play-off for the title of Playmate of the Year (far right), vying with China Lee and Jo Collins. She made 11 movies, including *The Art of Love*, several beach-party films with Frankie Avalon, *Where It's At* with David Janssen and *A House Is Not a Home* with Shelley Winters (near right), before going into corporate sales. "I did very well at that," she says.

Now retired and living in the Pacific Northwest—where she heard about the Playmate search being conducted for this book via e-mail from friends—she spends a good deal of her time traveling and visiting relatives all over Europe.



Miss November 1964

Kai Brendlinger

While working in PLAYBOY's flagship hutch, Kai (left) starred in the magazine's first cottontail pictorial, *The Bunnies of Chicago*. Not long after, she agreed to become a Playmate. Pompeo Posar, who shot her centerfold, trailed her on a high-country visit to Colorado for the accompanying black-and-white photography that appeared with her story. Thirty years later, he recalls: "Sixteen thousand feet. You couldn't even breathe!"

Miss October 1964

*Rosemarie
Hillcrest*

Her Playmate story says she rang Hugh Hefner's doorbell because she had always wanted to be a centerfold. Not exactly, Rosemarie (right) says now. It was because she needed an interview with a millionaire for her college newspaper in England. "I was traveling around the States on a Greyhound student ticket, and I rang the magazine from the bus station and asked for Mr. Hefner's phone number. They wouldn't give it to me, but for some reason they gave me the address. So I hopped in a cab and went to the

Mansion. They asked who sent me and I said PLAYBOY magazine, which in a way was true, and I got the interview. He was super, and he asked me if I'd ever thought of doing pictures."

After her college graduation and Playmate appearance, Rosemarie amassed a wide variety of job experience in Britain. During the Seventies, she

was named a magistrate in Manchester. "I was put forward because I had done a lot of charity work and the courts were in need of women and younger people. So I showed my Playmate story to the chief magistrate and he was marvelous. He looked at it and said, 'Pooh, it's not against the law, is it?'"

She might still be on the bench had she and her husband not moved to the countryside of North Wales. Looking back on it all (inset), she has fond memories of her days at the Playboy Mansion. "The Christmas I was there, Hef brought in a beautiful tree, all decorated. We girls were disappointed. We told him we wanted to trim our own tree. So

he had it whipped off to a hospital and brought in a green one, and we spent all day decorating it. Then we dragged Hef out of bed to look at it." She also recalls: "I want to make it absolutely plain that there was no pressure whatever for sexual favors. There's more pressure in the average office."



Miss December 1964

Jo Collins

1965 Playmate of the Year

Jo Collins is still as gorgeous in the Nineties (inset, with daughter Stevhanie) as she was three decades earlier when she went to Vietnam to deliver a lifetime PLAYBOY subscription to some GIs who had chipped in for one.

Born and raised in Oregon, Jo went to Hollywood with a Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority sister from the University of Oregon whose father was an agent. "Queen for a Day" needed models in little page outfits to work on the show, so we tried out and both got hired. I'd been majoring in sociology and wanted to be a social worker, but union scale was \$400 a week. I said, 'My God, this is fantastic, I don't think I ever want to leave Hollywood.'"



While she was in Hollywood, an agent suggested that Jo pose for Mario Casilli. "Mario said, 'I'm telling you right now, I know you will be Playmate of the Year. You have the look. You are the girl next door.'"

Since then, it seems to Jo that she's been with PLAYBOY all her life. "Think about it. I was a Playmate and a Bunny Mother, a Room Director at the Club. And they keep running my pictures. I never realized that when I turned 50 my pictures would still be coming out everywhere. I cannot lie about my age, because everybody knows." To update her pictorial image, Jo posed for Mario once again in December 1979's *Playmates Forever!* (opposite, top). Meanwhile, Jo's life has been anything but boring. "I've been married to and divorced from three very interesting men: an athlete [ace baseball hurler Bo Belinsky, by whom she had Stevhanie], a businessman and a Hollywood producer whose previous wives included Connie Francis and Dian Parkinson from *The Price Is Right*. I was his sixth wife. Do you think I could have gotten a clue on this?" Now selling real estate in the Chicago suburbs, Jo says she has been assured by an astrologer that she'll find husband number four—one she hopes will be a keeper. "Nowadays it's the 35-year-olds who are hitting on me, but I'd like to meet a nice 55- or 60-year-old guy. I don't like being out in the dating world again. I don't know how to flirt anymore."



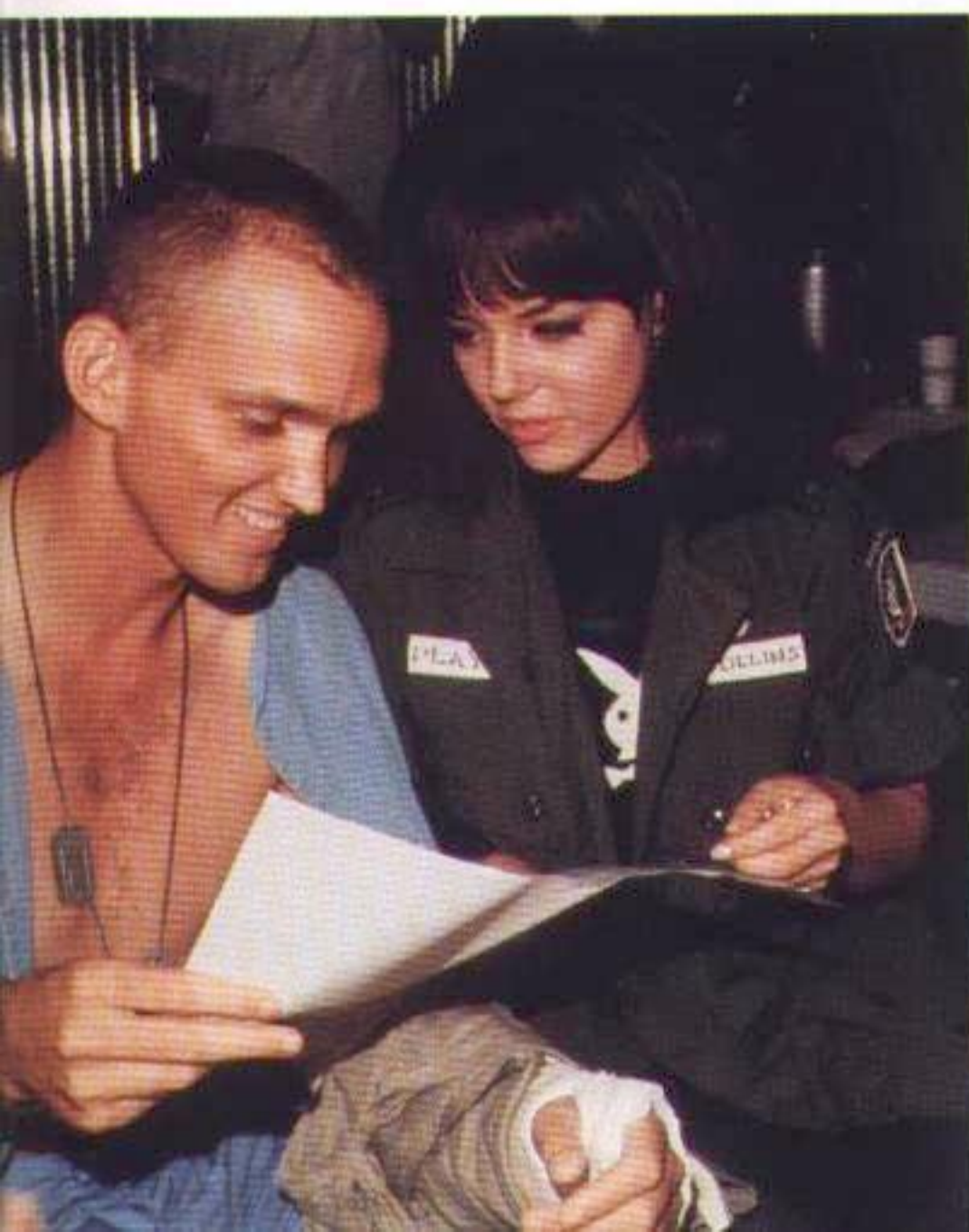


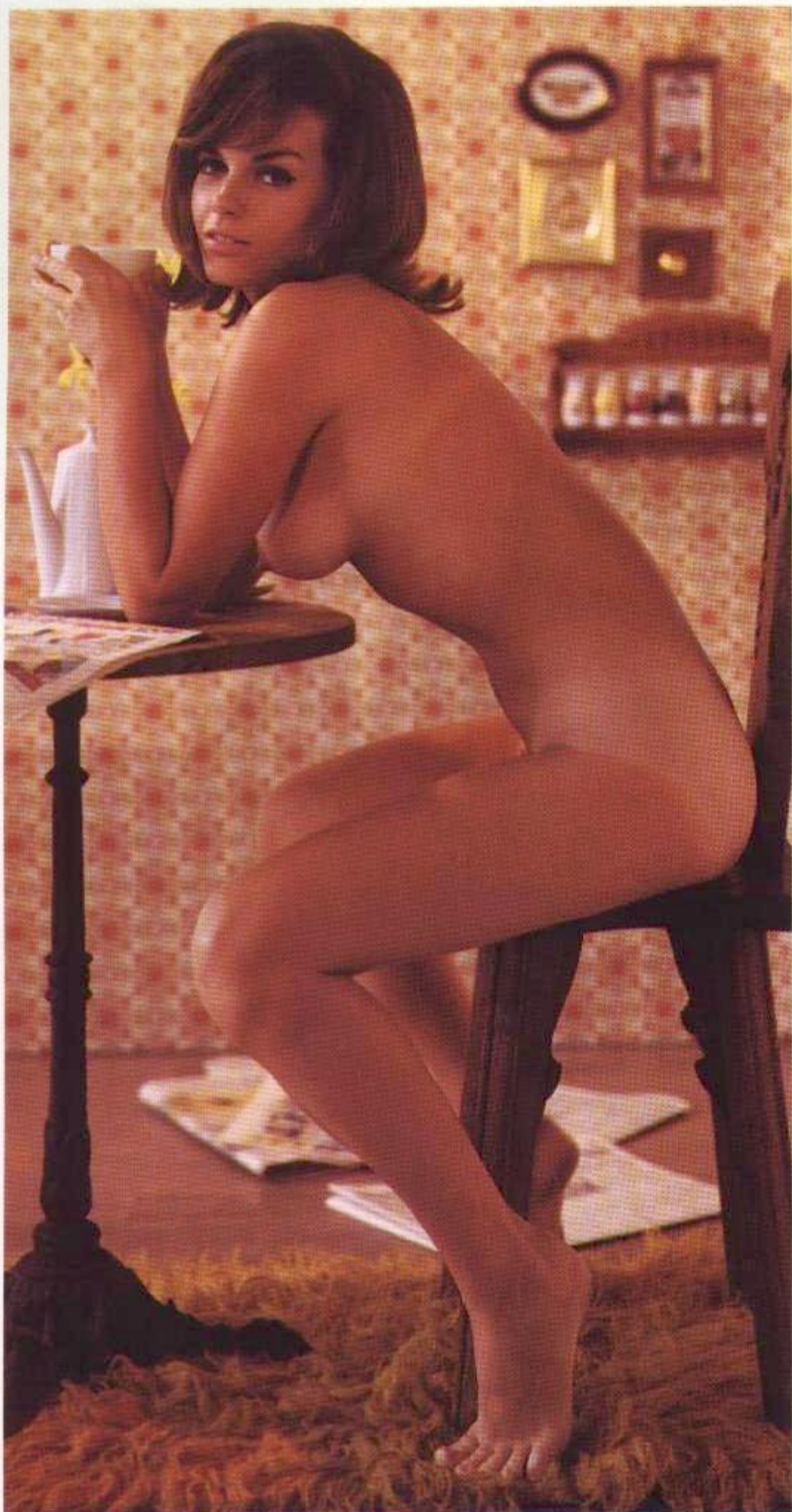
PLAYMATE

JO COLLINS *on her*

TOUR OF VIETNAM

Going to Vietnam was the most mind-boggling experience of my life. We had no idea what we were getting into. PLAYBOY used to have a policy that anyone who paid \$150 for a lifetime subscription could have the first issue personally delivered by a Playmate—if the subscriber lived in a city where there was a Playboy Club. Lieutenant John Price of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade wrote a letter to Hef from Nam, stating that the guys in his unit had each chipped in a dollar to buy the subscription and asking that I be sent to deliver it. I went with photographer Larry Dale Gordon and a chaperone. We found ourselves in the middle of a war zone. Those were live explosions we heard around us. When I got to Bien Hoa, where the unit was stationed, Jack Price had been wounded, so a couple of other guys welcomed me with a bunch of roses (opposite, far left). To qualify for the subscription offer, the soldiers had fixed up a "Club Playboy" at the PX, complete with lots of centerfolds on the wall. There I am autographing mine (opposite, near left). I went to the hospital to deliver the subscription to Lieutenant Price, who gave me a smooch (bottom left and center). He and his wife, who live in Virginia, still stay in touch. There I am (below) with Jack in PLAYBOY's offices in Chicago, just before the 173rd Airborne's 20th reunion in 1985, which I attended.





Miss January 1965 *Sally Duberson*

The only other college dropout in her family, she liked to say, was presidential progenitor James Monroe. Sally (left) studied at the University of Miami, joined the Bunny brigade both there and in Baltimore and left to study fashion design in New York.



Miss February 1965

Jessica St. George

A dance student of Hellenic heritage described by PLAYBOY staffers as a "Greek baring gifts," Jessica (left) got married shortly after her centerfold came out. Widowed after 19 years, she remarried, has two homes in the Los Angeles area and has been "traveling, working out and having a nice life."

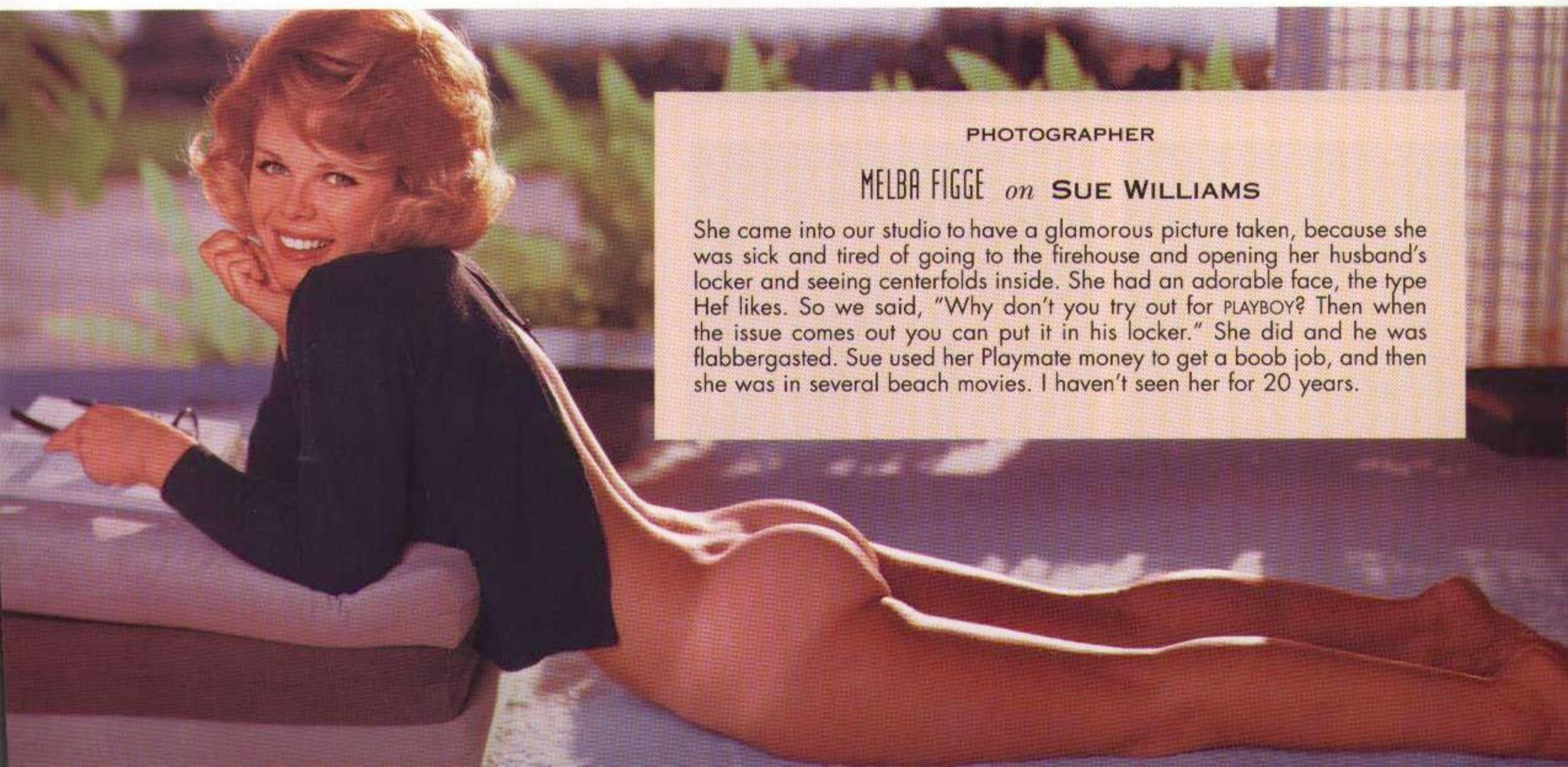
PHOTOGRAPHER

MARIO CASILLI on JESSICA ST. GEORGE

I used Jessica as the model for an ad in PLAYBOY that I'll never forget. It was for a male cosmetic and she was supposed to be giving Zeus a massage. And they complained because she looked too much like a Playmate. Well, she was a Playmate!

Miss April 1965 *Sue Williams*

Diminutive (4'11") Sue (below) was a native of Glendale, California, where the husband-and-wife team of Bill and Melba Figge had a photo studio. The Figges' friend Ed DeLong, also a photographer, had a connection at PLAYBOY. Sue's centerfold was the first of several Figge-DeLong collaborations.



PHOTOGRAPHER

MELBA FIGGE on SUE WILLIAMS

She came into our studio to have a glamorous picture taken, because she was sick and tired of going to the firehouse and opening her husband's locker and seeing centerfolds inside. She had an adorable face, the type Hef likes. So we said, "Why don't you try out for PLAYBOY? Then when the issue comes out you can put it in his locker." She did and he was flabbergasted. Sue used her Playmate money to get a boob job, and then she was in several beach movies. I haven't seen her for 20 years.

Miss March 1965

Jennifer Jackson

The magazine's first black Playmate, Jennifer was one of twin Bunnies at the Chicago Playboy Club. (That's sister Janice with Jennifer in cottontail costume, below, and tooling around town on a bicycle built for two, at bottom.)

These days Jennifer and her husband, a financial planner, live in the Pacific Northwest, where she is a social worker. They have three children and one grandchild.

"What makes me happy, what makes Jennifer tick? That's my grandbaby," she says with pride. Something else she's proud of: her historic Playmate role. "It took a lot of nerve," she observes.





Miss May 1965

Maria McBane

Thrust willy-nilly into the world of politics, Maria (in 1965, left, and 1996, below) said she planned to run for the Hawaii House of Representatives in the fall of 1996. "My husband and I moved to Hawaii maybe 16 years ago, and we had a restaurant called Huevos on the north shore of Oahu. It became very successful. We were doing 200 people in five hours for breakfast in this little out-of-the-way place." Small wonder: As Jason Hulse reported in a 1993 *Los Angeles Times* travel piece, "Nothing on the windward north-shore coast of Oahu compares with breakfast at Huevos in the funky old sugar-mill town of Kahuku." Huevos is gone now, the building torn down in a complex dispute involving local residents, HUD and powerful land developers who planned to



build a golf course. Maria has been forced to become an amateur lawyer—with, so far, 108 entries in federal court. "At first it was a cause," she says. "I was trying to help the former sugar-plantation workers, elderly people now, who'd been brought in from the Philippines and Japan, basically. They couldn't read or write English, didn't understand the papers they were given and signed away their rights to purchase lots. Now, of course, it's personal, too. After being left out on the street, I got into politics. Last year I ran for Honolulu city council and did pretty well, considering that I spent a total of \$150 and got 1114 votes, while the incumbent spent more than \$100,000 to get almost 10,000 votes. I don't know what the future holds, but I'll keep fighting."

Miss June 1965 Hedy Scott

"How's that for typecasting?" Hedy (below) commented when she won a part in the movie *Oh, Dad, Poor Dad*—as a Playboy Bunny. A contemporaneous film role, in *What Did You Do in the War, Daddy?*, cut closer to the bone. Hedy's father, an American soldier, had been killed in Korea in 1953. Hedy married an advertising executive and has a daughter.





Miss July 1965 *Gay Collier*

Although she was serious about her career, spending hours studying classical ballet and modern jazz dancing, Gay (above) was a natural clown who couldn't resist acting up for the camera, impersonating Charlie Chaplin and a one-woman oompah band for Mario Casilli.

Miss August 1965 *Lannie Balcom*

By the time she became a centerfold, Lannie (below) had landed a job as assistant manager of PLAYBOY's College Bureau. PLAYBOY staffers lost track of Lannie and only while researching this book learned that she had died in Montana in 1991.



Miss September 1965

Patti Reynolds

"When I was a Bunny, Hef had—besides the Bunny Dorm—one studio apartment in the Mansion," Patti (above) recalls. "The rules were no pets, no boyfriends, no nothing. One day I ran down to get some coffee and the housekeeper went in that tiny studio and my dog, my two cats, my parakeet and my goldfish all greeted her. Hef never complained to me, ever." Another time, she says, "I pulled on this little terrycloth coverup with nothing underneath and went downstairs. There was Hef with, I think, Tony Bennett and Warren Beatty and all these celebrities. I said, 'Oh, hi,' and reached over and grabbed two apples and put them in my pockets. The weight pulled that little shift right down to my ankles. They didn't say a word. They just stared. But I'm sure when I left they snickered." Still an animal lover, Patti (inset) has worked as a naturalist and now, through her company Audubon Entities, markets a device called the Bird Guardian, which she invented to protect baby birds from predators.





Miss October 1965 *Allison Parks*

1966 Playmate of the Year

She changed her name for PLAYBOY—"I was so naive I thought nobody would know who I was"—but decided she rather liked Allison Parks and continues to use it today. The "swimming school" toddlers in her Playmate layout were actually her children, now in their 30s, but Allison is the genuine article, still displaying the same grace and beauty today (inset) as she did when predecessor

Jo Collins and Don (Get Smart) Adams presented her Playmate of the Year award (right). Because of PLAYBOY, she says, "I was able to have a career in modeling and TV commercials for 25 years." Allison now works as a portfolio administrator for an investment counseling firm and is surprised when people treat her as a celebrity. "It amazes me," she says, "but I'm sure I'll be asked to pose and sit for an interview when I'm 90."



PHOTOGRAPHER

MELBA FIGGE *on* ALLISON PARKS

Allison was our third Playmate. We had her wedding pictures on display in the window of our studio. She was one of the prettiest girls in Glendale. My husband was head over heels in love with her, as everybody else was. I think Hef's wife, Kimberley, looks like Allison.

Miss November 1965

Pat Russo

When Pat (far right and, in her Miami Bunny days, right) told one of her associates in a Florida psychotherapy practice that she was thinking of calling the Playmate hotline, he said, "You were a centerfold? We have a celebrity in our midst!" Family circumstances motivated Pat, who has a golf-pro daughter and a teenaged son, to quit modeling and performing in musical theater and return to school. "I needed a career that didn't require traveling, and tests revealed that the fields I was most suited for were creative arts and counseling."

Choosing the latter, she earned a master's degree. Today she specializes in aiding victims of addiction, eating disorders and sexual abuse. "Doing operettas was great, but I really love my work now," she reports.



WEST COAST
PHOTO EDITOR

MARILYN GRABOWSKI

on

DINAH WILLIS

While we were doing her picture story, Dinah got on the phone to talk to her family. She was so homesick that she burst into tears, and we ended up using those photos in the story.



Miss December 1965

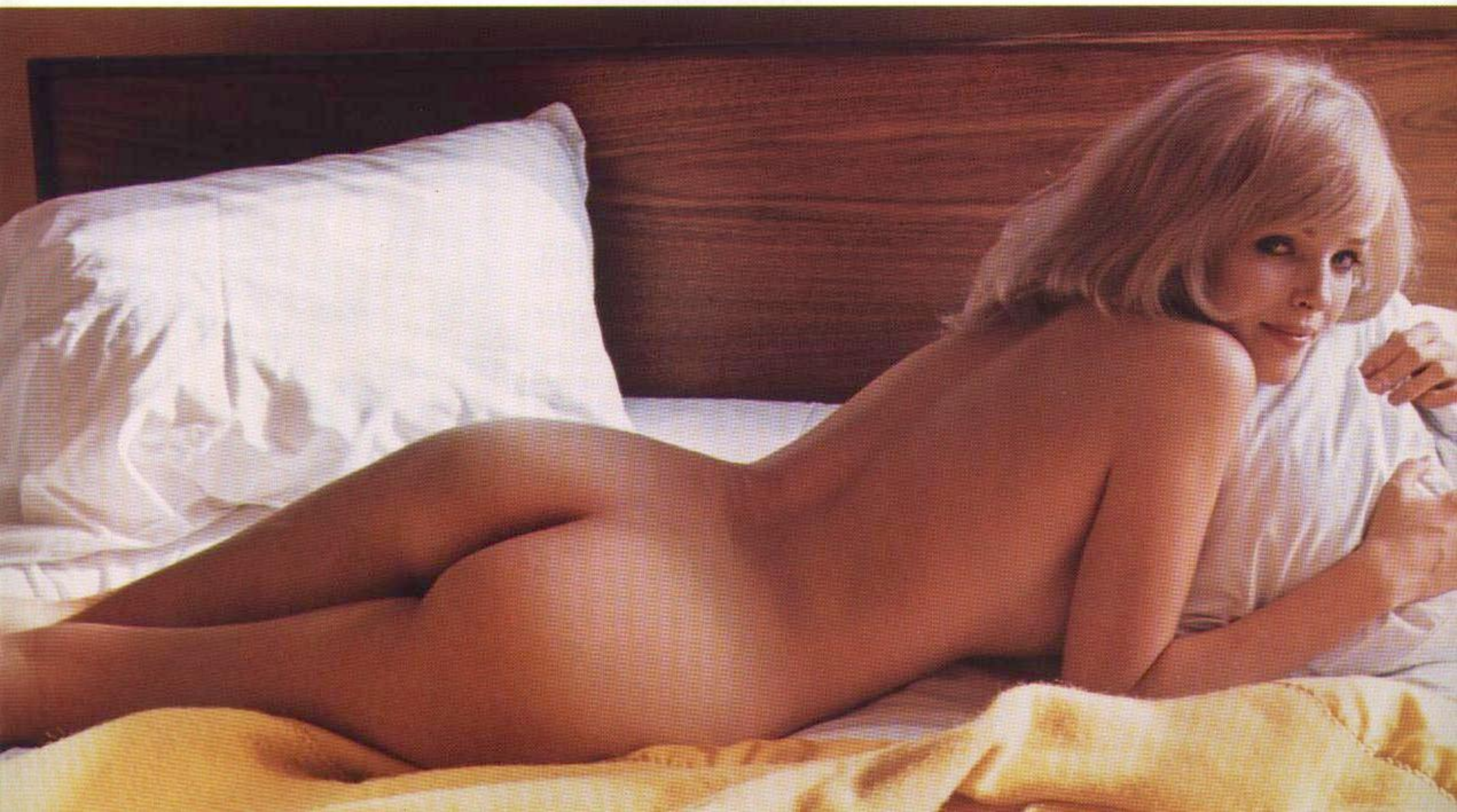
Dinah Willis

The *Dear Playboy* column in September 1965 was illustrated with a black-and-white amateur photo (left) of a pretty blonde from Hobbs, New Mexico who was inquiring about her chances of becoming a Playmate. Good, the editors replied, sending Dinah (below) a ticket to Chicago.

PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on
DINAH WILLIS

I remember it as if it were today: It was Dinah's first time on a plane, and when she got to O'Hare, it was her first time on an escalator. We did the centerfold and she was very, very sexy. She looked to me like Marilyn Monroe somehow.





Miss January 1966

Judy Tyler

Judy (left) wants to apologize to all the GIs who wrote to her during the Vietnam war. "I never answered them. I was 18, just a kid, and I didn't realize how much it would have meant to them to hear from someone." She's been active since her centerfold days, mostly in sales work, but is now (below) combining her longtime interests in art and music by creating Fronds by Judea—original art from palm trees—and booking and promoting the reggae group Krooshal Force.



Miss February 1966

Melinda Windsor

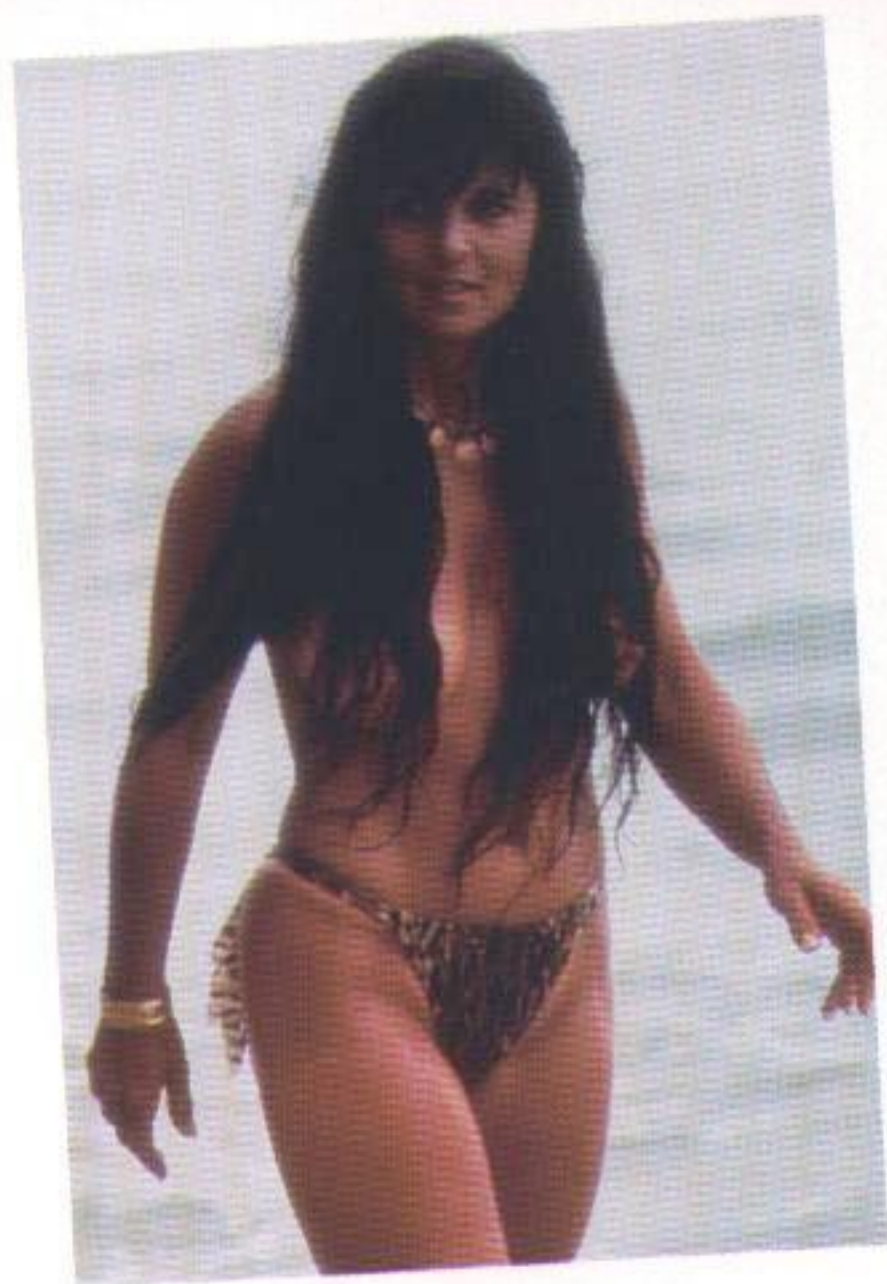
Why, oh why, oh why oh, did Melinda (left) ever leave Ohio? To enroll in college in California (earning a degree in psychology), become a Playmate and use her centerfold modeling fee to finance a well-deserved vacation.

Miss March 1966

Pat Wright

Call her Priscilla or call her Pat—she prefers the latter—this perky blonde (right) was a favorite with readers, Playboy Club keyholders and editors. Pat, the par-breaking daughter of a golf pro, won the Southern California Junior Championship at the age of 13. She was one of nine Playmate-Bunnies working at the Club when PLAYBOY paid tribute to the *Bunnies of Hollywood* (December 1967).



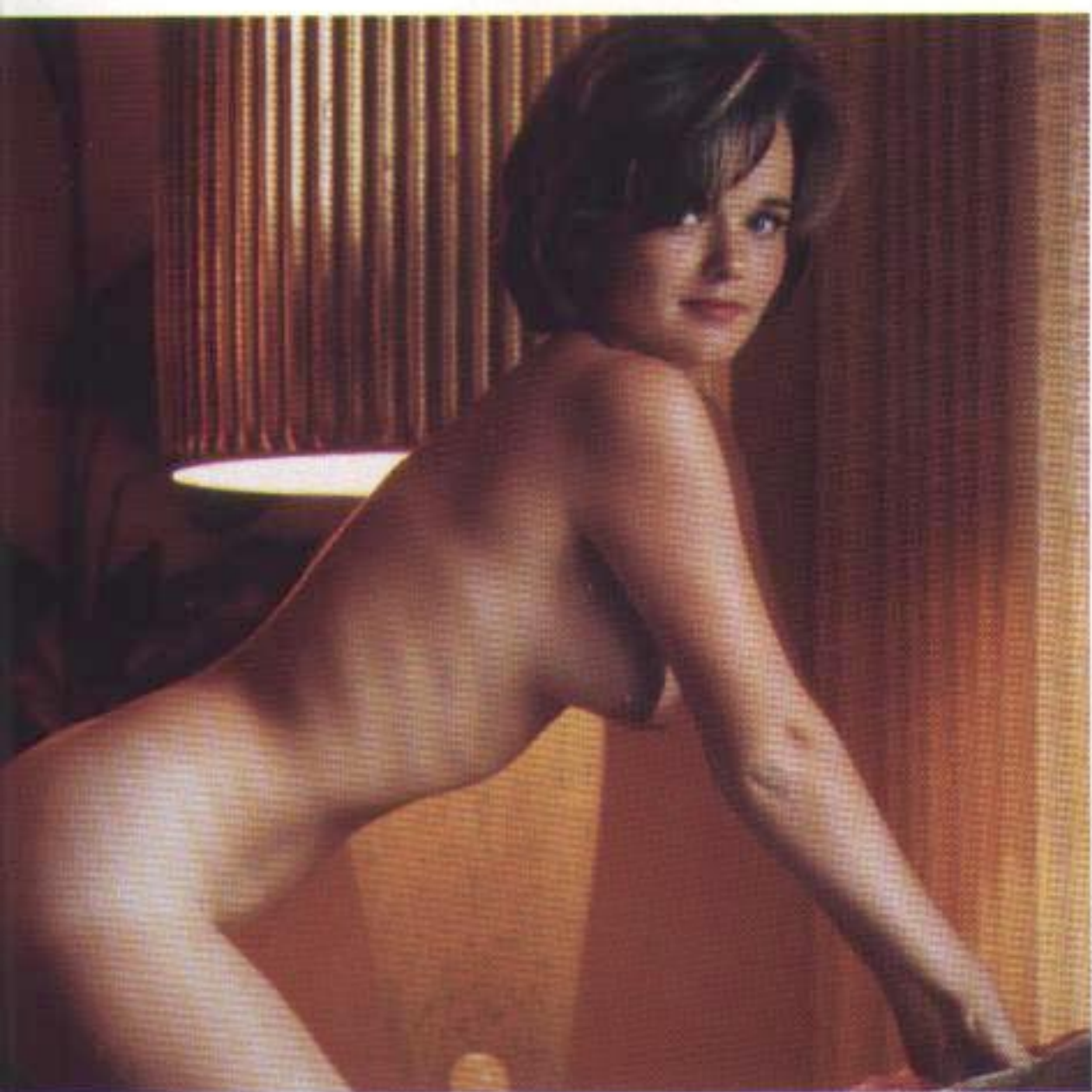


Miss April 1966

Karla Conway

Malibu Beachnik, PLAYBOY labeled Karla (above), and she's still bopping around the beach—and still looking great (left)—but now the surf's in Hawaii. These

days, Karla is enjoying undreamed-of success as artist Sachi Nifash. "I've turned into this art maniac," she says. "I've done 500 paintings in the past eight years, and we're selling miniprints, greeting cards, posters and T-shirts. Right now I'm working on illustrating four children's books." She also composed, wrote and illustrated *New Beginnings*, a musical release and companion book.



Miss June 1966 Kelly Burke

Her sister-in-law was Allison Parks, so Kelly (left) naturally came to the attention of photogs Bill and Melba Figge and their collaborator, Ed DeLong. The friendship has continued. "I still sit in the Figges' seats at USC football games," says Kelly, who with her husband owns a pharmacy in California. (Her daughter, who was on the way when Kelly posed, runs the family nursery business, and her son is a doctor.) A vivid memory for Kelly is of an early promotional trip to Canada. "My plane was coming into Saskatoon and there were TV cameras and press all over the place. I said to the person next to me, 'Man, there must be somebody on this airplane!' and I'm looking around to see who it was. I was shocked when I found out the somebody was me. The guy sitting next to me was laughing. He said, 'You don't come to Saskatoon often, do you?'"

PHOTOGRAPHER

ED DeLONG on

KELLY BURKE

On the way down to Palm Springs to shoot Kelly we had two flat tires, so we were late and rushing to shoot before it got dark. The house where we were shooting was right on a golf course, and all of a sudden there came a guy cutting the grass. He was only about 30 feet from the girl, and he almost fell off the mower. But then he kept coming back.

Miss May 1966

Dolly Read

Bristol-born Dolly came to Chicago to learn to be a Bunny—so she could help train a cottontail contingent for the planned London Playboy Club. She liked the States, especially Los Angeles, with its "blue skies and palm trees and different-colored houses." After working in London (where she filmed the James Bond spoof *Casino Royale*, below center), Chicago and New York—and twice coming down with pneumonia—she headed back to try her luck in Hollywood. "I was really broke when one day I got a letter about an interview for *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*," she recalls. "I was driving up Pico Boulevard in this awful brown Dodge Dart when I saw this huge billboard that said HELLO DOLLY! and I knew then and there I was going to get the job." (She did, co-starring with fellow Playmate Cynthia Myers.) About the same time she met *Laugh-In* co-host Dick Martin. "You know how in the comics the eyes go POW! with diamonds? He was adorable, but eight weeks went by and he didn't call. Then the phone rang and he said, 'Dolly, this is Dick

Martin and I think I love you.' That made me laugh, and from then on he's been making me laugh." Dick and Dolly were married in 1971 (bottom left), split for a spell and, together again (bottom right), just had a 25th-anniversary bash.

"Hef's wedding gift to us was a LeRoy Neiman painting of us copied from a wedding picture. If the house burned, that's the first thing I'd grab, after sticking Dick in the car."





Miss August 1966 *Susan Denberg*

A native of Klagenfurt, Austria, Susan (below) was a dancer and actress who made a number of movies, among them 1967's *Frankenstein Created Woman*, with Peter Cushing, and had a prominent role in an episode of *Star Trek*. Unfortunately for fans, her nude scene with Stuart Whitman in the film version of Norman Mailer's *An American Dream* (bottom left) was snipped.

HEF on SUSAN DENBERG

Susan was my date at the opening of the London Playboy Club in 1966. We double-dated with Roman Polanski and Sharon Tate. She later got caught up in the swinging London scene, sidetracking her promising career.

Miss July 1966 *Tish Howard*

A debutante on two continents, Tish (above) was the daughter of well-to-do parents who maintained homes in Palm Springs and "Los Angeles' swank Holmby Hills section." That was the first time most Chicago-based staffers had heard of Holmby Hills, but it was soon to become familiar as the site of Playboy Mansion West. Tish so captivated fans that she was propelled into PLAYBOY's second Playmate Play-Off, competing against Lisa Baker and Susan Denberg.

PHOTOGRAPHER

MEL FIGGE on TISH HOWARD

Tish was going to Mount St. Mary's College and she changed her name for her Playmate story. The day the magazine appeared, the mother superior called her in. She had the picture on her desk and said, "What do you have to say about this?" and Tish said, "Oh, you too? Everybody thinks I look like that girl. It's uncanny." The nun said, "I thought so," and closed the book. You notice Tish didn't lie to her.





Miss September 1966

Dianne Chandler

Going on PLAYBOY promotions gave her the travel bug, and Dianne Chandler (in 1966, above, and today, inset) has been making a living in that industry almost ever since. In addition to owning her



own company, Travel Agency Services Ltd. in Woodstock, Georgia, she managed the Atlanta office for an official ticket and tour operator to the Olympic Games. She has been married 15 years to a man who describes

her as "just a normal gorgeous red-head." But in her Playmate days, she says, "I was a typical little suburban klutz. I remember one of the first times I ever went to the Mansion, I spilled my Coke right into Hef's stereo. I wanted the sky to open and swallow me up, but he was so kind. He just said, 'Don't worry about it, we'll get somebody to fix it.'"

Miss October 1966

Linda Moon

Linda Moon (right) had a pet rabbit, whom she described as "sort of a playboy in his own right." A newly minted high school graduate from California's Sierra Madre country, Linda candidly admitted she preferred sleeping late and soaking up the sun to pounding the pavement in a job search.



Miss November 1966

Lisa Baker

1967 Playmate of the Year

"I went to California for a vacation," Texas-bred Lisa remembers, "and decided to stay for a while. Then the most wonderful thing ever happened to me—I became a Playmate and then Playmate of the Year! It totally changed my life. I am so proud of my association with PLAYBOY." At far right, center, she joins Hef at a 1971 Directors Guild party for the premiere of PLAYBOY's movie *Macbeth*. Shortly after posing for *Playmates Forever!* in 1979 (near right), she moved to West Texas to be closer to family. Twice married, she's now "single because I choose to be and therefore have the freedom to travel a lot." Latest destination: Florida, where Lisa (inset right) is talking of sharing a home with DeDe Lind.



PHOTOGRAPHER **MELBA FIGGE** on **LISA BAKER**

Lisa was very popular. We found her when she was a bridesmaid at a wedding we shot. If you look at her picture story, you'll see a policeman who is giving her a speeding ticket. She married him.

PLAYMATE **LISA BAKER** on **THE COP**

He started coming around after that, and we were together about 12 years, married for seven. But I still have a heavy foot. I get a couple of tickets every year, so I spend a lot of time in traffic school.



Miss December 1966

Susan Bernard

Her Playmate story mentioned her first film role, "a small part in a shot-on-location desert flick." The then-nameless feature: Russ Meyer's recently re-released *Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!*, now a cult favorite with a whole new set of fans for Miss December (left). Susan earned more prestigious acting credits (an Orson Welles movie and two years on *General Hospital*, bottom left) but is best known today as a writer and head of a publishing and production company that is largely based on the works of her father, legendary photographer Bernard of Hollywood. "I've often thought about what my life would have been without PLAYBOY," she says. "I might not have done the writing. And it certainly enhanced my life." Susan was still



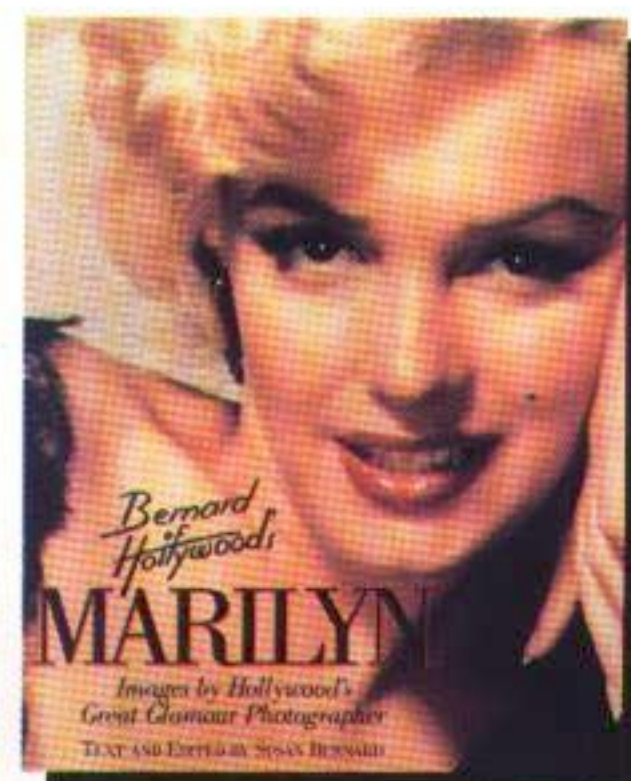
in her 20s when she developed deals for several television specials (she still owns the TV rights to the diaries of Anaïs Nin). After her marriage to playwright Jason Miller and the birth of their son, Josh, she wrote the book *Joyous*

Motherhood because, she says, "I truly believe that the creative process—art, photography, music—makes a difference at the beginning of a child's life. Children under three are sponges, and God only knows what they can absorb." Josh, now 21 (with Mom, inset), apparently absorbed plenty. He starred in *River's Edge* and has just signed a six-figure contract for a roman à clef about growing up in Hollywood. Susan is now divorced from Miller and from her second husband, publishing impresario Stanley Corwin, but has collaborated on projects with both. Asked by *The New York Times* how she felt about being in a pin-up CD-ROM, she replied: "I'm thrilled to be in it, and if I weren't, I'd really feel offended."

HEF on

SUSAN BERNARD

How perfect that this Playmate should write and edit a book about her father's photographic love affair with our very first Playmate, Marilyn Monroe. Her book, *Bernard of Hollywood's Marilyn* (below, right), published by St. Martin's Press in 1993, has just been released on CD-ROM.





Miss February 1967 *Kim Farber*

The magazine was ten years old when the Playboy Theater was opened on Chicago's Near North Side. Three years later, a magazine staffer noticed an especially attractive ticket taker on duty there and asked Kim Farber (above) if she'd be interested in appearing in the centerfold. A highlight of her Playmate career, she said, was delivering a lifetime subscription to a soldier bound for Vietnam. "Everybody at the base where he was stationed treated me like a star."

Miss January 1967

Surrey Marshe

A grubstake earned by modeling in her native Denmark financed passage to New York City, where Surrey (above) became a Playmate-Bunny at the Playboy Club opposite Central Park and enjoyed folksinging with friends in Greenwich Village (below). She addressed a Harvard Business School class on the success of PLAYBOY, but later wrote a somewhat sensationalized paperback book, *The Girl in the Centerfold*.



Miss March 1967 *Fran Gerard*

As an astrologer's assistant, she had stars in her eyes—but she definitely wore glasses over them. Fran was the first Playmate to appear on a centerfold wearing prescription specs (above), putting the lie to Dorothy Parker's couplet about men, passes, girls and glasses. Still, one doctor of optometry wrote in offering to fit her with contact lenses, gratis.

Miss April 1967

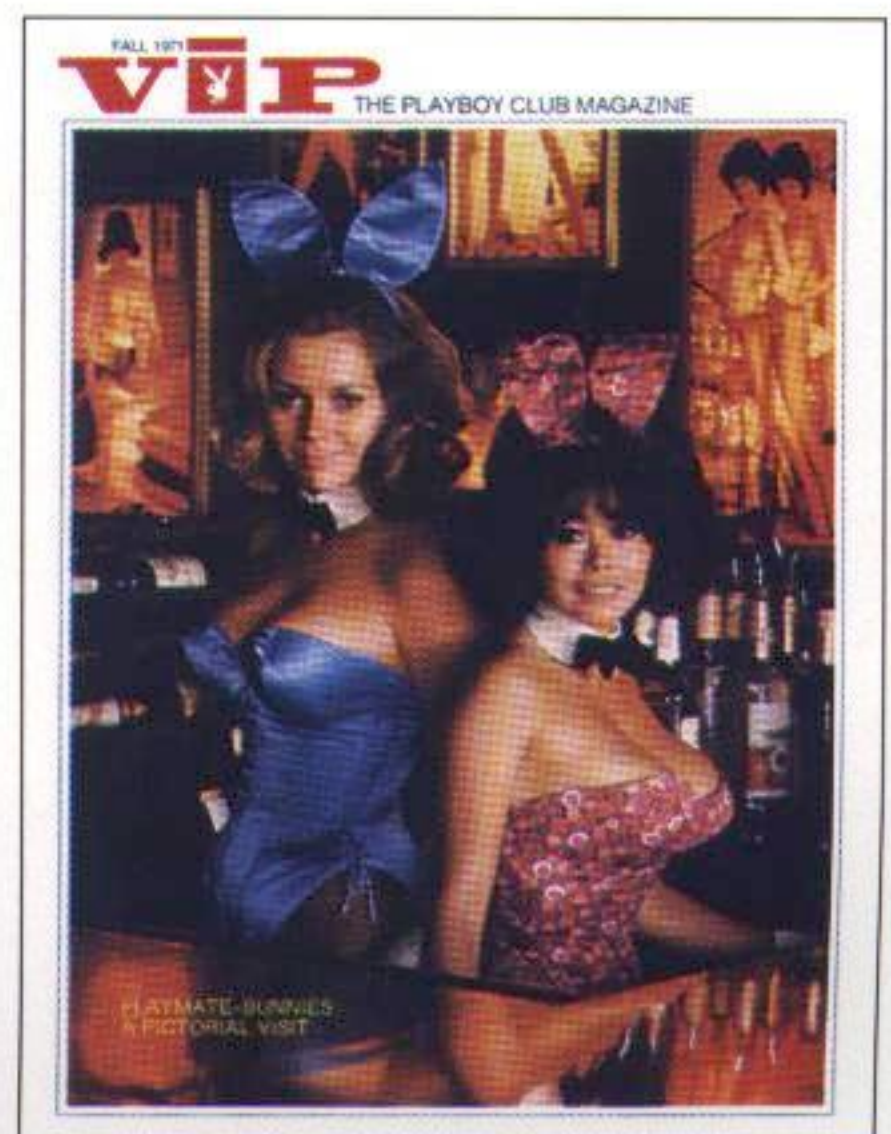
Gwen Wong

Something about Gwen Wong's center-fold (left) must have stuck in the mind of lensman Steven Meisel and his *Vanity Fair* model, Madonna, who came up with the same pose in 1992 (bottom inset). Gwen worked as a cottontail in the Los Angeles Playboy Club, gracing the cover of the keyholders' quarterly VIP with fellow Playmate-Bunny Avis Miller (bottom). She even made the elite corps of Jet Bunnies who accompanied

Hefner on a far-flung vacation aboard his DC-9 *Big Bunny* to Europe and Africa. "It was a wonderful trip," she says. "I saw places and things I never thought I would see." Below, Gwen, Hef and Jet Bunny Rosemary Melendez fondle a feline friend in Africa. These days Gwen, who has a degree in interior design and is "always taking art classes," does body casting (inset above). "I call them sculptural portraiture because they're highly personalized images of the human form. I got into this because here I am in Southern California, and where do you find better bodies?"



"I have a lot of sexual fantasies about women, but I'm mostly fulfilled by being with a man."



Miss May 1967

Anne Randall

There was just one thing that delayed Playmate and cover girl Anne and her husband, singer Dick Stewart, in retiring to Arizona. "Our whole social life was at the Mansion," she says. (In the inset photo, the Stewarts dance at the party Hef tossed for their 25th wedding anniversary.) "If we hadn't hated living in L.A. the other 20 hours a day, we would never have left. We still try to come back every six weeks or so."

Dick and Anne had been dating for five years when they moved from San Francisco to Los Angeles. They married just before her issue came out. Pocketing the down payment on her Playmate fee, she quit her job as a travel-agency receptionist and started going on auditions. "I got commercials right away, then a role in a community theater musical, and William Morris signed me." Her showbiz career took off, with roles on *The Monkees*, *Cannon*, *Barnaby Jones*, *Love American Style* and other shows. "I had a small part in *Westworld* [below right] as the first robot to go haywire. And I was on *Hee Haw* for two seasons with Barbi Benton." She also sang with the Singing Playmates (bottom, on a George Burns special) and posed for a 1973 feature on cigars (below left), long before it was fashionable for women to smoke stogies. "Our friendship with Hef has been a wonderful one," says Anne.



Miss June 1967 *Joey Gibson*

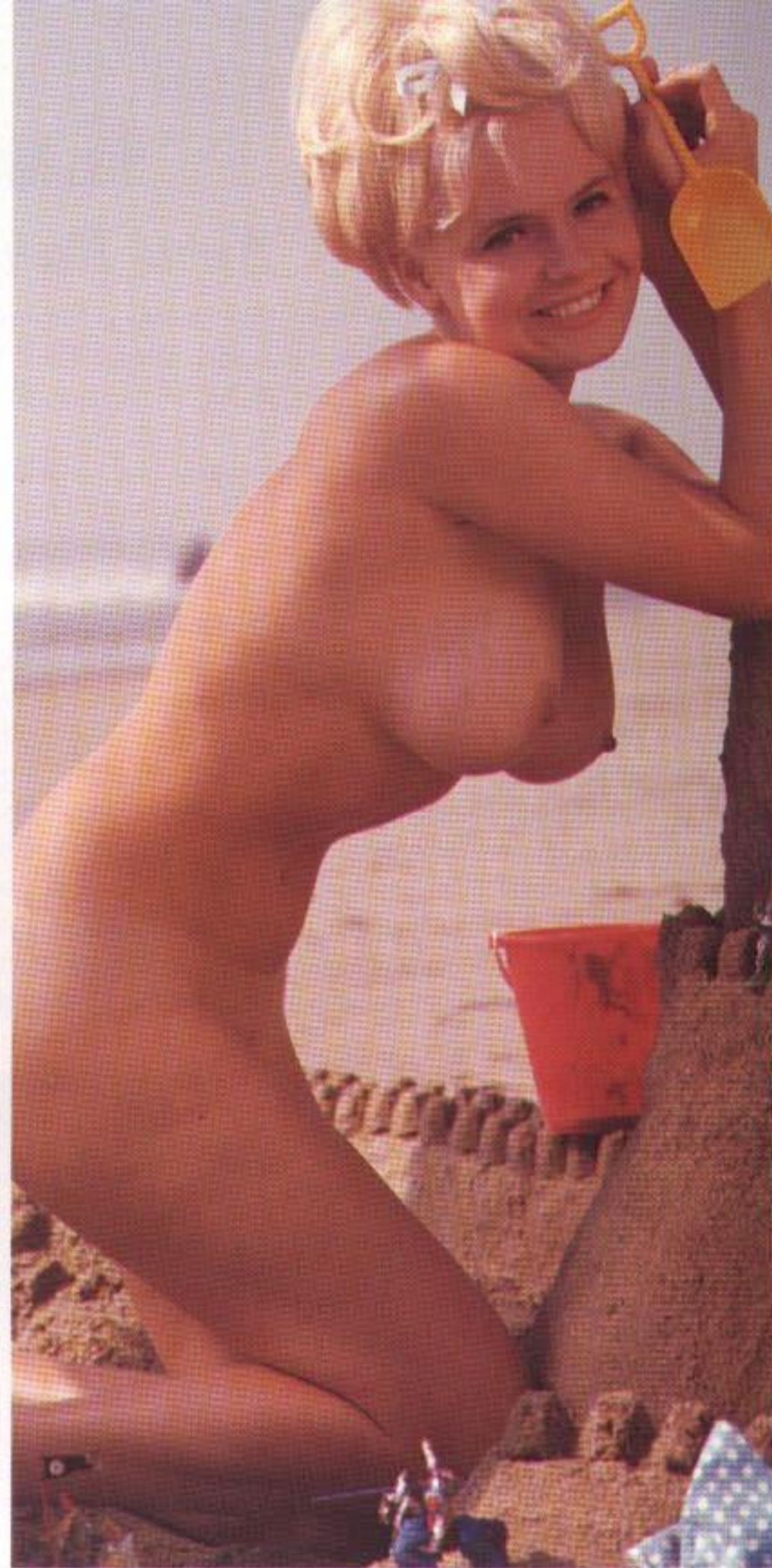
Joey (right) had majored in psychology at Santa Monica City College and was working as an assistant to a prominent medical hypnotist when she signed up to be a Playmate. After her working hours, she studied criminology. On weekends she found time for a few sets of tennis. "I am my own woman," she stated. "I lead my life according to no social standards other than my own."



Miss July 1967

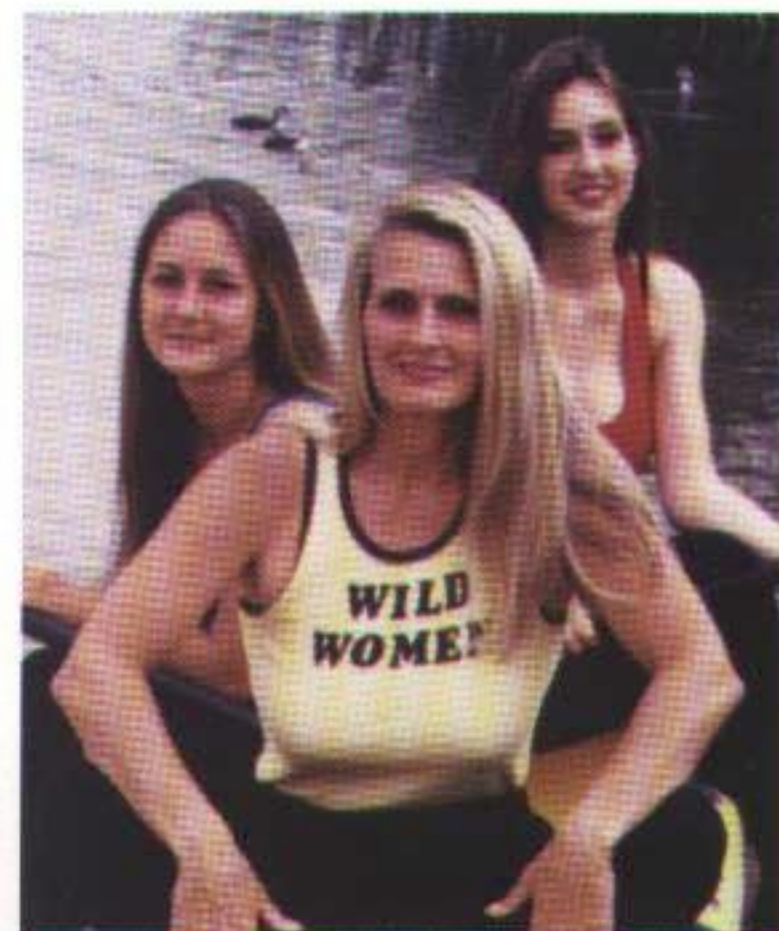
Heather Ryan

Looking over her Playmate story, headlined *Call of the Wild*, Heather Ryan chuckles. "Wow!" she exclaims. "It's almost 30 years later and I haven't changed either my hairstyle or my lifestyle." In 1967 she admitted to "a passion for anything that's wild." Today she's a wildlife biologist, environmental educator and science writer who leads Wild Women Eco-Tours—climbing, camping, riding and kayaking expeditions for women aged 21 to 81—and publishes a catalog called Wild Child. To the occasional embarrassment of her husband and two daughters (Charlene, left, and Heather Leigh, right, with their mother below), she has also become known as the Queen of Road Kill for her efforts at turning dead critters into educational exhibits for school-children. (Did we mention she's also a taxidermist?) "I do a lot of training, too, because I work with dangerous animals—rattlesnakes, scorpions, spiders and the like. I helped train some of the men for Desert Storm. If they send out a big, burly GI, the guys don't listen. If they send out a woman like me to lie in the sand and let snakes crawl across her, they pay attention. Because they figure if this woman can do it, they can." Heather credits her PLAYBOY experience for having financed her education and built up her ego, and she was pleased when she received a letter from Hefner asking for her participation in this book. "Something like this highlights what we were, but it also highlights what we have become, and it's kind of neat. So thank you all."



PHOTOGRAPHER ED DeLONG on HEATHER RYAN

Heather was Miss Glendale in the Miss America pageant, and the Figges and I took her to the beach down by San Pedro. We climbed down a cliff and walked about half a mile to a place beneath a pretty tall cliff, where we could stand her on some rocks. She was a little modest, so she kept her top on until we were ready to shoot. When she took it off, you should have heard the applause and whistling. We hadn't realized there was a Coast Guard station and a lighthouse up on the cliff. The girl was cool—she just waved her top.



Miss September 1967

Angela Dorian

1968 Playmate of the Year

Being named for a shipwreck doesn't sound appealing, but a young actress named Victoria Vetri went for the idea, which was hatched by an agent who must have been haunted by the sinking of the Italian liner *Andrea Doria* 11 years

before. She was still Angela to her PLAYBOY admirers when she became Playmate of the Year (near right), but resumed

her real monicker for roles in *When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* (top far right) and *Rosemary's Baby* (with Mia Farrow, center far right). Returning to the magazine for *Playmates Forever! Part Two* in 1984 (inset), she testified to a new conviction that blondes really do have more fun.





Miss August 1967

DeDe Lind

DeDe drew more letters than any Playmate before or since—and that was long before e-mail. Today, living in Florida, she's making the most of modern technology, responding to admirers—"I'm getting more letters than ever"—via the Internet. PLAYBOY, says DeDe, "was the best thing I ever did for myself. I'd like to be a centerfold every single year." Her enduring beauty was captured again by Bunny Yeager's shot for March 1996's *Playmate Revisited* (bottom center).



HEF on DEDE LIND

DeDe, and all the Playmates from her era, represented the girl back home to whom the boys away from home hoped to return. She was pictured on a "just friends" date, sightseeing in San Francisco with a high school classmate who was about to return to duty in Vietnam. DeDe's sweet naïveté was obvious as, dressed in Sunday attire, she introduced her sailor friend to her great-aunt Margaret. In person, DeDe is just as sweet. More popular today than ever, she is the classic example of how readers never forget their favorite Playmates.



Miss October 1967 *Reagan Wilson*

Married for 15 years, Reagan is now (inset) in the arts and antiques business, but she has a stack of acting credits—*Beverly Hillbillies*, *Big Valley*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, to name a few—in her résumé. Becoming a Playmate (left), she says, was “a godsend. I could support myself between parts with the modeling jobs I got through PLAYBOY.” In 1969, when *Apollo 12* astronauts Pete Conrad and Alan Bean landed on the moon, they discovered plastic-covered photos of Reagan and Angela Dorian in the checklists strapped around their wrists—the morale-boosting work of fellow NASA pranksters. Ten years later, Reagan posed for *Playmates Forever!* (below).



Miss November 1967

Kaya Christian

At the age of 11, she was a champion swimmer and diver. At 12, she set a Georgia state record for the backstroke, and Kaya (left) still headed for a pool in Burbank whenever she had time off from her job in a photo-processing firm. After her centerfold appeared, she received and accepted an offer of a post at a Beverly Hills literary agency.

Miss December 1967

Lynn Winchell

Yet another bridal-party discovery by the prolific team of Bill and Melba Figge, Lynn (right) worked for a land-development company. Lynn saw an *American Journal* segment about this book and sent an e-mail message. “PLAYBOY has had a good impact on my life to this day,” she says. “I was shy then. I’m not anymore. I hope there’s another Playmate Reunion. Pass that on to Mr. Top.” Lynn has been in advertising for more than 15 years and has her own full-service agency in California. Married twice, at present to an attorney, she has two grown daughters.





Miss January 1968

Connie Kreski

1969 Playmate of the Year

Part of her Playmate fee financed a trip to London, where, on an elevator in the Playboy Club building on Park Lane, she bumped into actor Anthony Newley. Newley then cast her as the titular Mercy in the movie he was directing, *Can Hieronymus Merkin Ever Forget Mercy Humppe and Find True Happiness?* (that's Connie with Newley on location, below). The film also starred Newley's then-wife, Joan Collins, in the role of Polyester Poontang. Connie was in other films, including *The Black Bird*, a spoof of *The Maltese Falcon*. In 1972 Connie posed with actor James Caan in a PLAYBOY fashion feature about men's jewelry titled *So It's a Bracelet, What's It to Ya?* (bottom); she and Jimmy were an item for some time. Connie later married Louis A. Edelman and died at her Beverly Hills home in 1995.

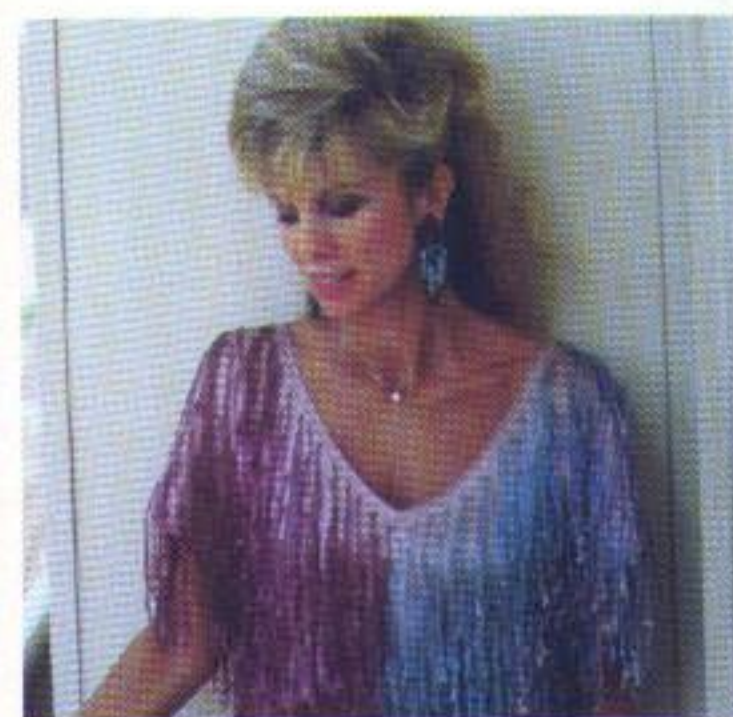




Miss February 1968

Nancy Harwood

The wife of "a wonderful attorney" and in her own right a successful businesswoman—she's an independent rep for some 30 jewelry makers—Nancy thoroughly enjoys being what she describes as a vintage Playmate. "The older I am the more I'm worth, from a collector's viewpoint," she notes. "It's great. People look at my centerfold [left] and say, 'You look better now than you did then.' I think so, too." The evidence appears below.



Miss March 1968 *Michelle Hamilton*

Her grandmother recommended Michelle (right) to photographers Bill and Mel Figge. She called in and said, "My granddaughter is much better looking and much bustier than any of the girls you've been shooting." A Pasadena City College coed at the time of her Playmate shooting (right), Michelle told a *Los Angeles Times* reporter who interviewed her later in 1968 that, on the basis of what she called an astrological whim, she had decided to resume using her real name, Roxanna Platt.

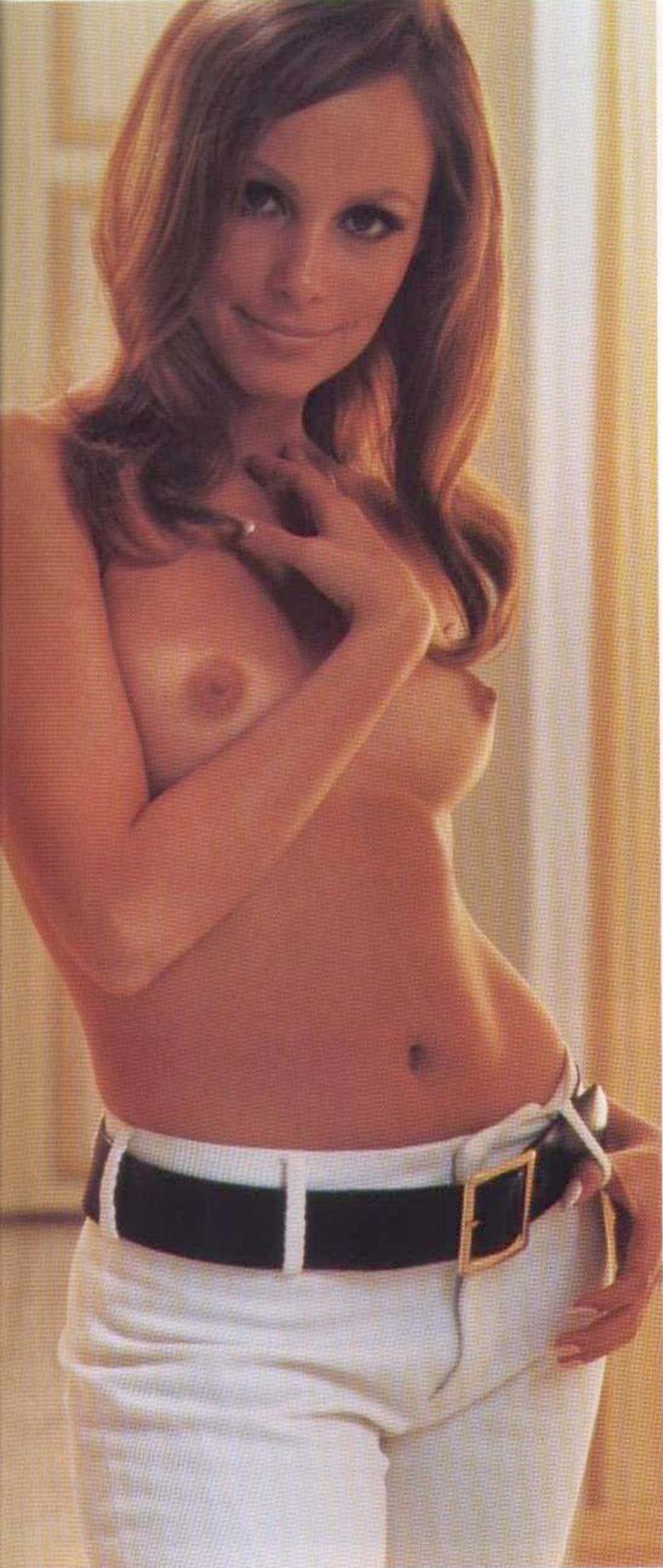
The scribe was impressed with Miss March under whatever name, tossing about such adjectives as "cultivated" and "vivacious." Among the perks she earned via

PLAYBOY: movie auditions and dates with Omar Sharif.

Miss April 1968 *Gaye Rennie*

It was a high school graduation portrait rather than a wedding-party picture that brought Gaye Rennie (below) into the Figges' studio in Glendale. The choice of photographers was obvious, since Mel Figge and Gaye's mother, actress Ann Gavel, had been friends for years. Gaye said she had no interest in acting, despite the fact that Bill Figge saw in her a Jean Harlow quality.





Miss May 1968

Elizabeth Jordan

Few people realize that Elizabeth Jordan appeared on PLAYBOY's cover three times and on that of VIP, the Playboy Club magazine, once. That's because Elizabeth (left), a Bunny for five years in Chicago, New York and Atlanta, posed under her *nom de lapin*, Joey Thorpe. Her favorite PLAYBOY cover: July 1966, with five models lying on the sand in the shape of the Rabbit Head. "I'm the back ear." After leaving PLAYBOY, Elizabeth continued to model and do voice-overs for commercials before deciding to go back to school, studying educational administration. "I was surprised that I turned out to be intelligent," she says with a robust laugh. Elizabeth was associate dean of students in a Western university when she "had a good time in the stock market and was able to retire." Happily ensconced in the mountains of California for the past five years, she has been remodeling an old house—"I mean a really old house"—which she plans to turn into a bed-and-breakfast.



HEF on

BRITT FREDRIKSEN

At the start of my romance with Barbi Benton, we had plans to meet in New York City, but she didn't show. I was devastated, but I ran into Britt in the elevator of our office building and she helped me get through a lonely weekend.

Miss June 1968 Britt Fredriksen

Six years had passed since a Norwegian girl had adorned PLAYBOY's centerfold, but Britt (right) more than held up the honor of Scandinavia. She left her high school teaching job in a small town near Trondheim to come to the States, where she first worked as a waitress in a Nordic restaurant in Minnesota. There she heard about PLAYBOY, and hopped to the hutch in St. Louis to become a Bunny. Britt later became a model; her most noteworthy ad was one for Braniff, which carried her likeness with the legend: "Ever since I made the centerfold of PLAYBOY, I fly on Braniff. When you got it, flaunt it."



Miss July 1968 *Melodye Prentiss*

A durable theme in showbiz is the tale of the unassuming librarian type who, when she doffs her glasses, is revealed to be a ravishing beauty.

PLAYBOY had its own such butterfly in the person of Melodye Prentiss (below), who worked as a researcher in the magazine's editorial library.

At right, she goes over her shooting with photographer Pompeo Posar.

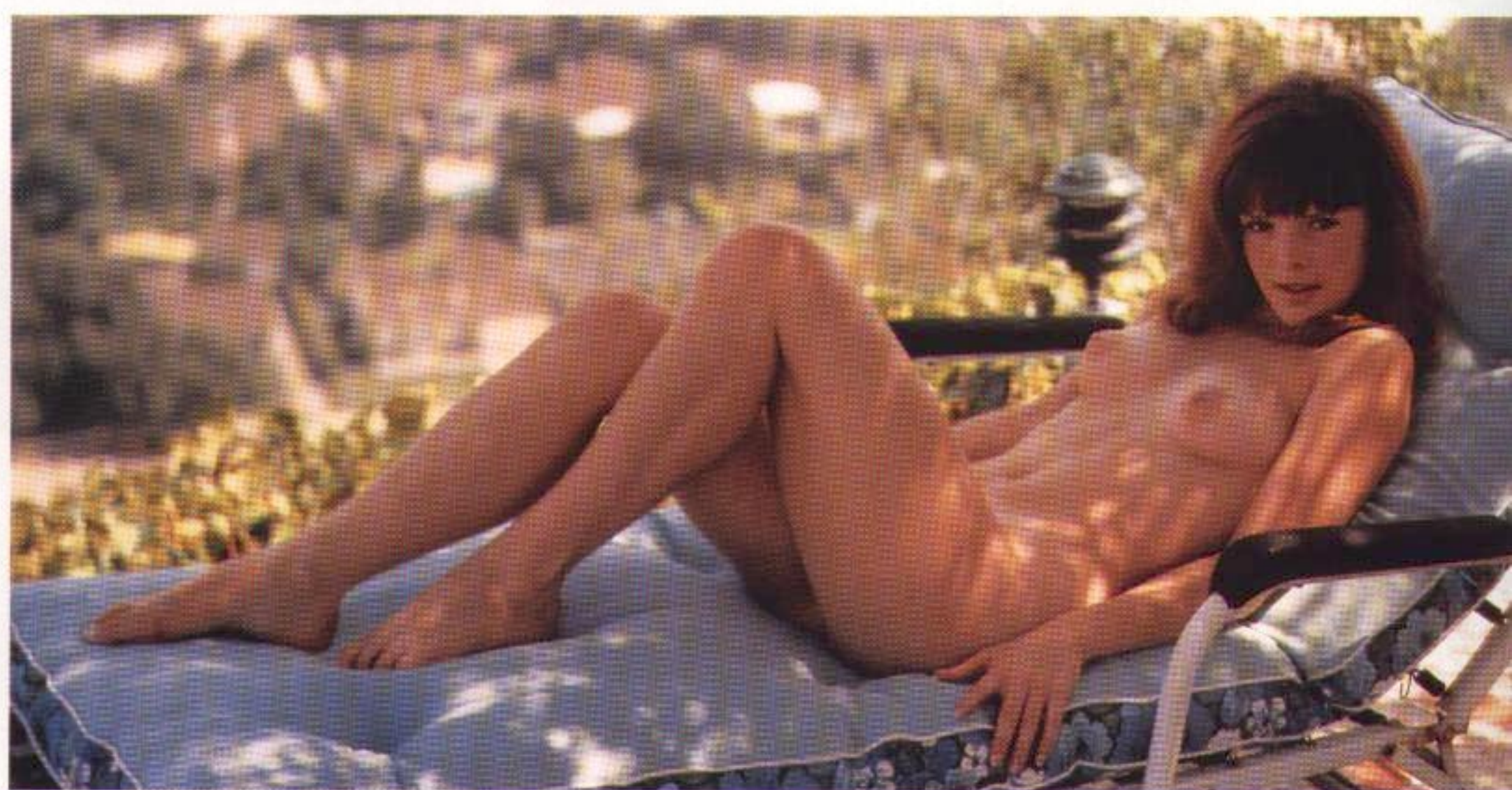
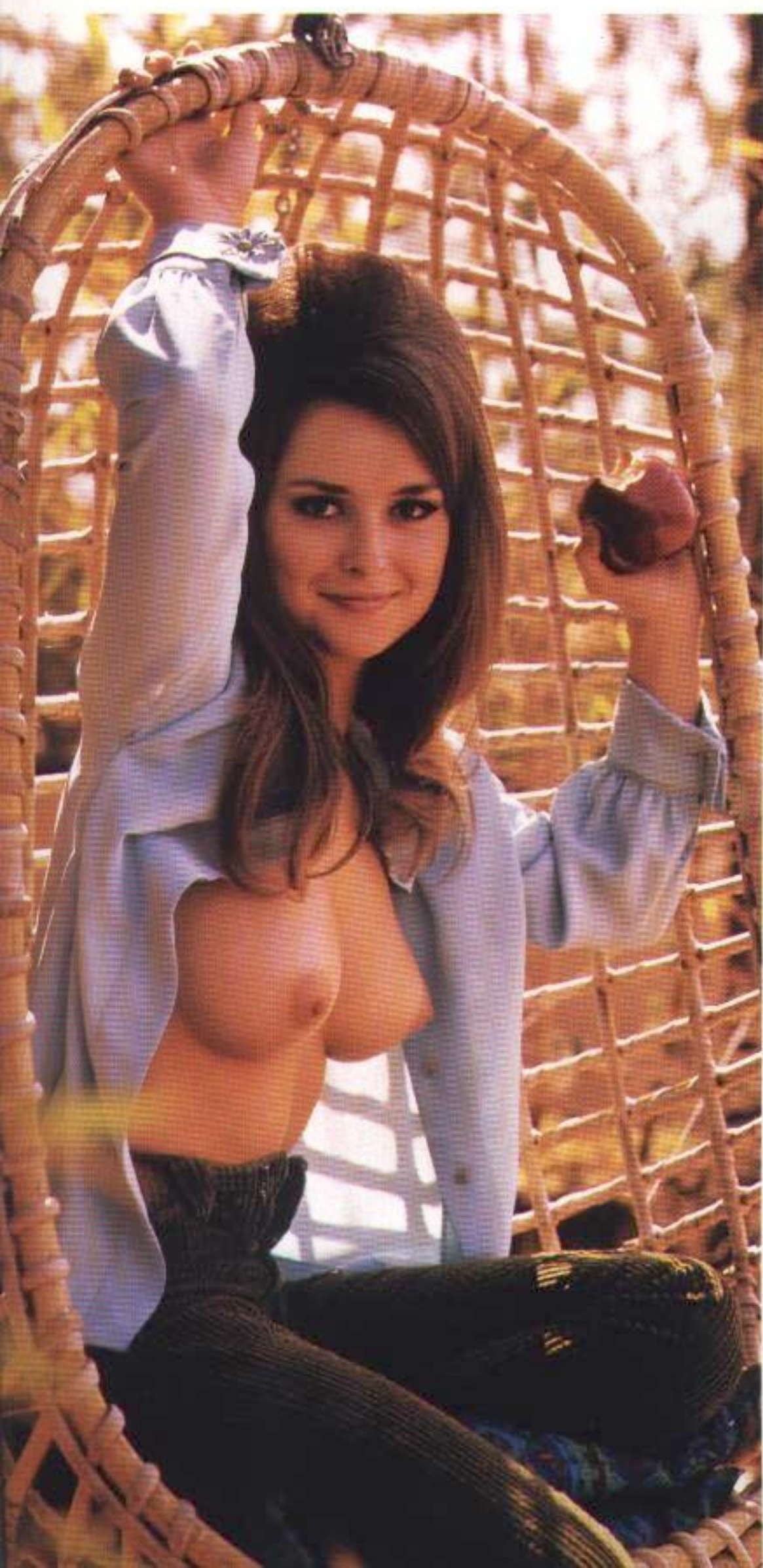


PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on

MELODYE PRENTISS

The first time I saw Melodye was in the elevator at PLAYBOY. She wore glasses and she didn't look like much, but I liked something about her. I got out on the same floor with her and saw that she went to the library. When I asked her if she would like to try for Playmate, she said, "Who, me?"



Miss September 1968 *Dru Hart*

PLAYBOY's selection of attorney's aide Dru (for Drucilla) Hart (left) pleased not only the usual red-blooded American males but at least one female, Sara Ellen Totten of Newport Beach, who wrote to *Dear Playboy*: "Thanks for choosing a legal secretary as September's Playmate of the Month. The public should be aware by now that secretaries are not really stern, long-skirted, horn-rimmed types, but some of the most glamorous women in our society." Sara, one suspects, was a secretary, but Dru abandoned that calling in favor of a career in modeling.

Miss August 1968

Gale Olson

"I think every girl who has the figure for it wishes she could be a Playmate, and I'm no exception." That was the straightforward reply to a question by the staffer who interviewed Gale (above) for her Playmate story. At the time, she was considering a career as a flight attendant or even a NASA astronaut. But a trip to PLAYBOY HQ persuaded her that Chicago was her kind of town, and she became a Bunny there.



Miss October 1968

Majken Haugedal

Scandinavia struck again in the person of Danish-born Majken ("call me Mike") Haugedal (left), a Bunny at the Montreal Playboy Club when chosen for the centerfold. She was the first representative of PLAYBOY's Canadian outpost to make the cut. Sixteen years later, she re-teamed with Pompeo Posar for *Playmates Forever! Part Two* (April 1984, right).

PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on

MAJKEN HAUGEDAL

This was a really neat girl, Majken Haugedal. Hers was one of the simplest centerfolds ever, no set, just a bedsheet behind her. She and Connie Kreski were both candidates for Playmate of the Year; I did Playmate of the Year layouts on both of them. Maybe 15 years later I got a letter from Majken, saying, "I'm in London, please call me, I still got good boobs." A few months later we brought her to Chicago to do these pictures of past Playmates.



Miss November 1968

Paige Young

Paige (below) was a talented artist whose portrait of a then-youthful Truman Capote appeared in her picture story—the last produced for PLAYBOY by Peter and Alice Gowland. Her promising career ended in 1974 when she took an overdose of sleeping pills.

PHOTOGRAPHER ALICE GOWLAND on PAIGE YOUNG

I was surprised when Paige Young came to visit us to talk about being a Playmate. She had her hair pulled back and wound in a braid on top of her head, and I thought, I can't see that girl being in PLAYBOY. Then she came back again, and she had her beautiful chestnut hair down and she was perfect for it. Peter still has the backscratcher from that centerfold.





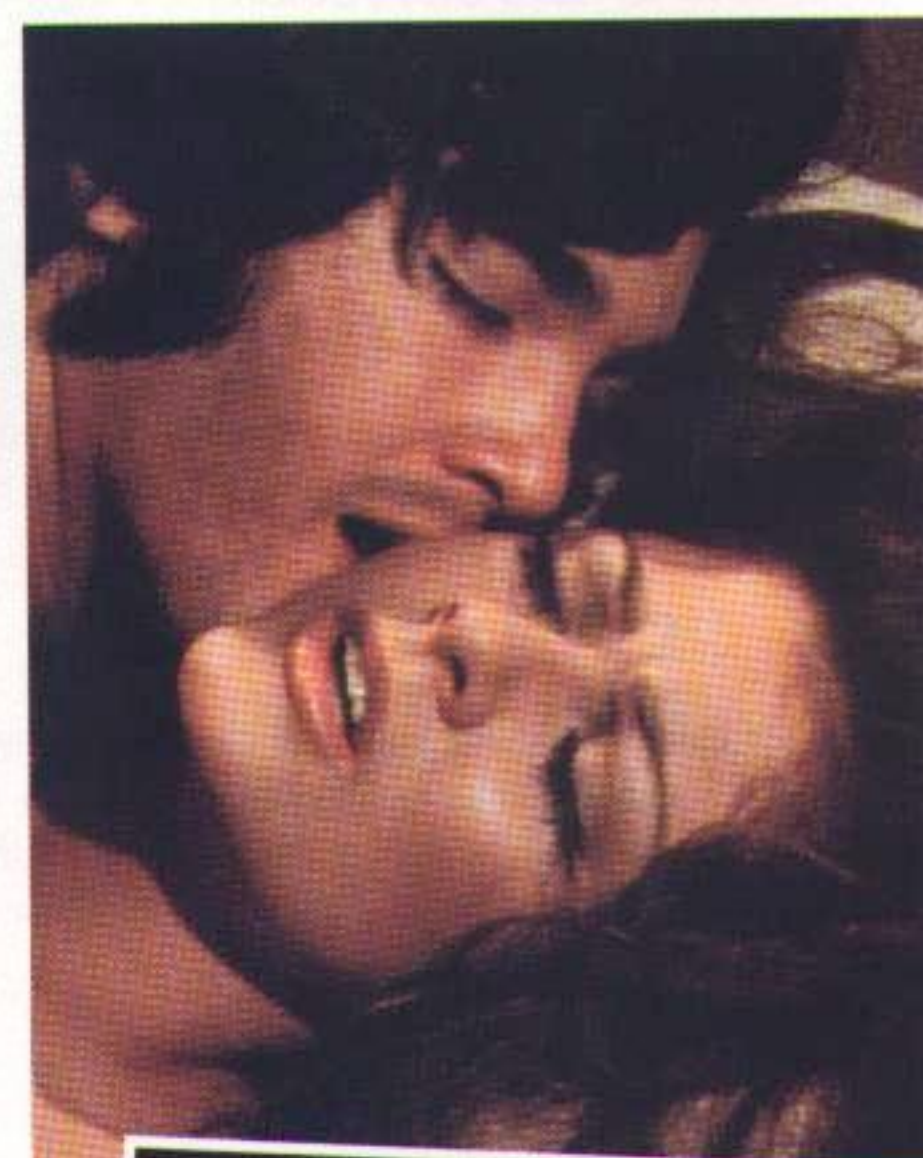
Miss December 1968

Cynthia Myers

At the ripe young age of 15, Cynthia Myers concluded it was her destiny to become a Playmate. When she wrote to the magazine from her hometown in Ohio, she received a reply from Assistant Picture Editor Marilyn Grabowski stating that Playmates must be of legal age, but that she should keep in touch. Cynthia did, and in due time her striking 39DD-24-35 measurements appeared in the magazine under the not too surprising headline *Wholly Toledo!* Cynthia starred in 1970's Russ Meyer-Roger Ebert collaboration *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls* with fellow Playmate Dolly Read. Below, Meyer, Cynthia, Dolly and Hef visit on the set; center right, rock singer



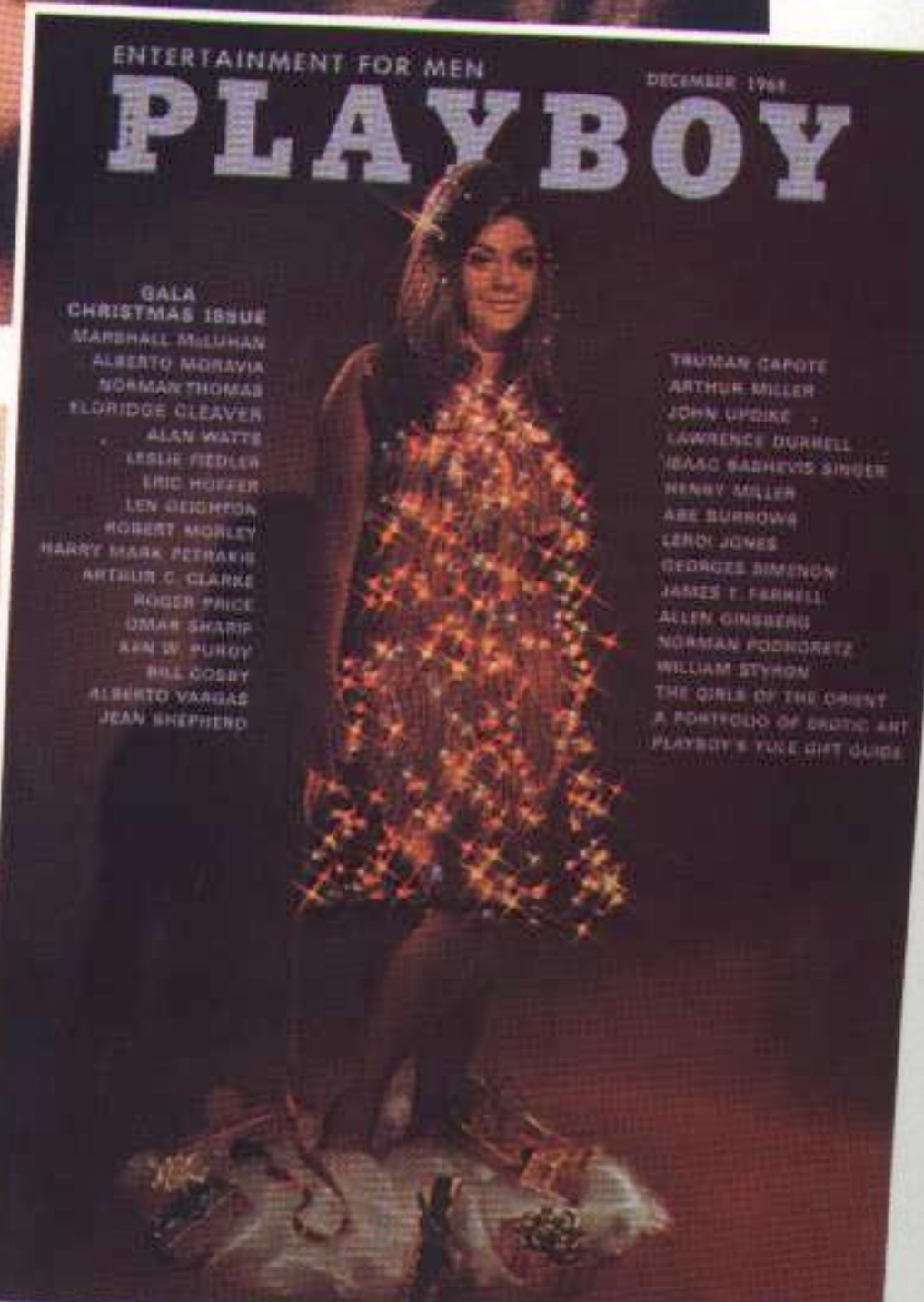
Cynthia beds down with her trio's manager, David Gurian. Servicemen by the thousands carried her centerfold to war with them in Vietnam—and they haven't forgotten. They're still asking for autographs at pin-up conventions—something Cynthia enjoys. Some think she looks better than ever today (inset). Fans on the World Wide Web's Playboy Mailing List have chosen her their official Playmate. "It's trippy, it really is," she says, noting wryly that times have changed since her high school principal, having heard about PLAYBOY, said that if it were up to him she wouldn't get her diploma. "When my little sister got to that same high school, they had a sign that said, 'Welcome to Woodward High School, alma mater of Danny Thomas, Helen O'Connell, Jamie Farr and Cynthia Myers.'"

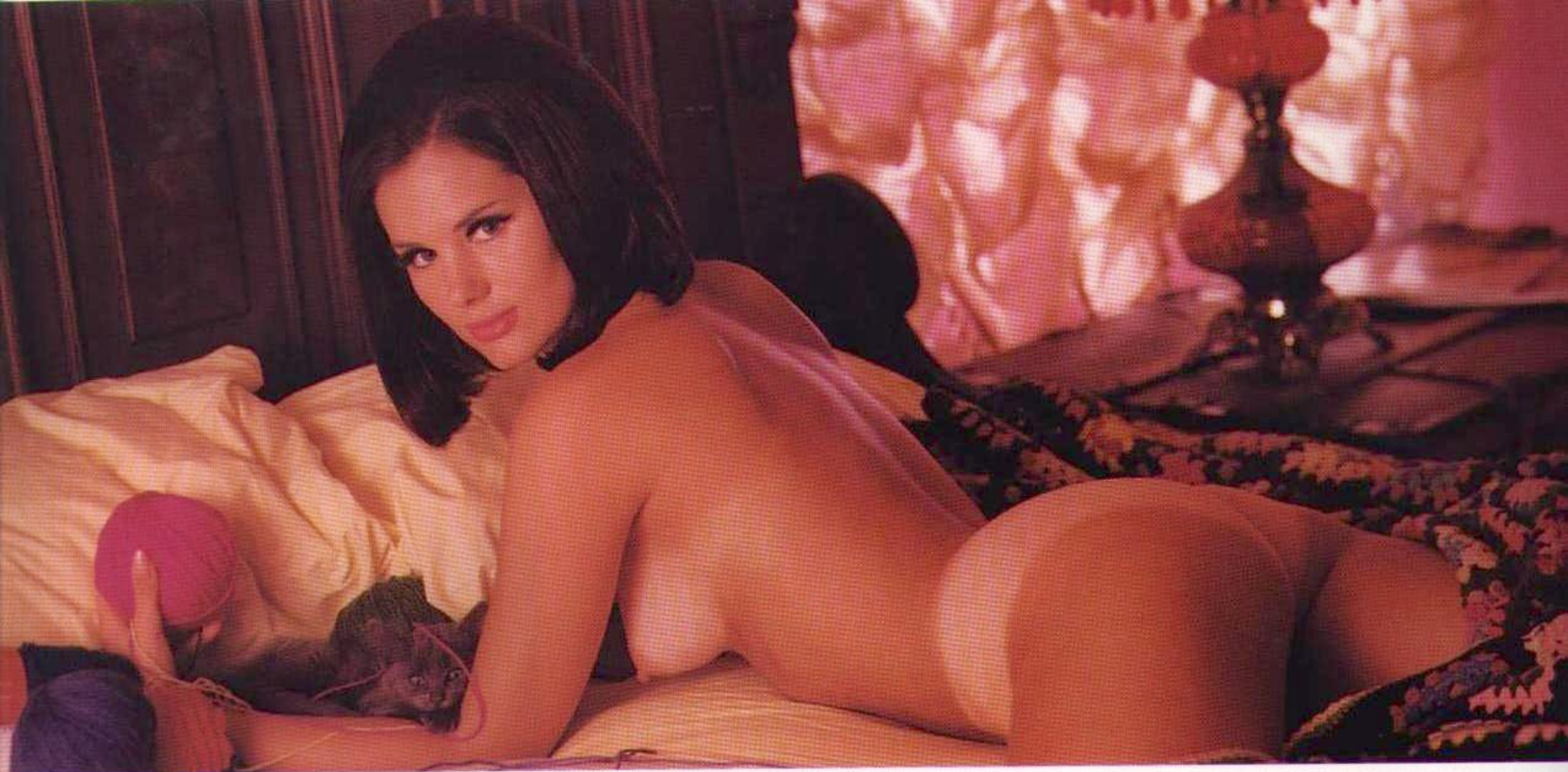


ART DIRECTOR

ART PAUL on THE UNFORGETTABLE COVER (DECEMBER 1968)

Nobody forgets this cover. It's like a nightmare you can't escape. Two years earlier, we had done a cover with a model wearing Christmas ornaments as earrings. It worked out nicely, so I thought I'd try a similar notion with Cynthia Myers and the Christmas tree. It was horrible. She looked like a pregnant Playmate about to be electrocuted. Everybody hated that cover. Cynthia hated it. Pompeo hated it. I hated it. Hef hated it. But we had to run it, because there was just no time to do another one.





Miss January 1969

Leslie Bianchini

"I'd love to have an Arabian horse," Leslie (above) told her Playmate interviewer at a stable near her home in San Carlos, California. Later on, her dream came true, and then some. At right, Leslie in 1982 with one of the several Arabians she bred and trained at her own Santa Rosa ranch.



Miss February 1969 *Lorrie Menconi*

A self-described zodiac nut and animal lover, Piscean Lorrie (right) landed a job working for a veterinarian in Hollywood. Fans snatched up her Playmate jigsaw puzzle (below) at the official price of \$3; they're now going for \$40 or more on the souvenir market.

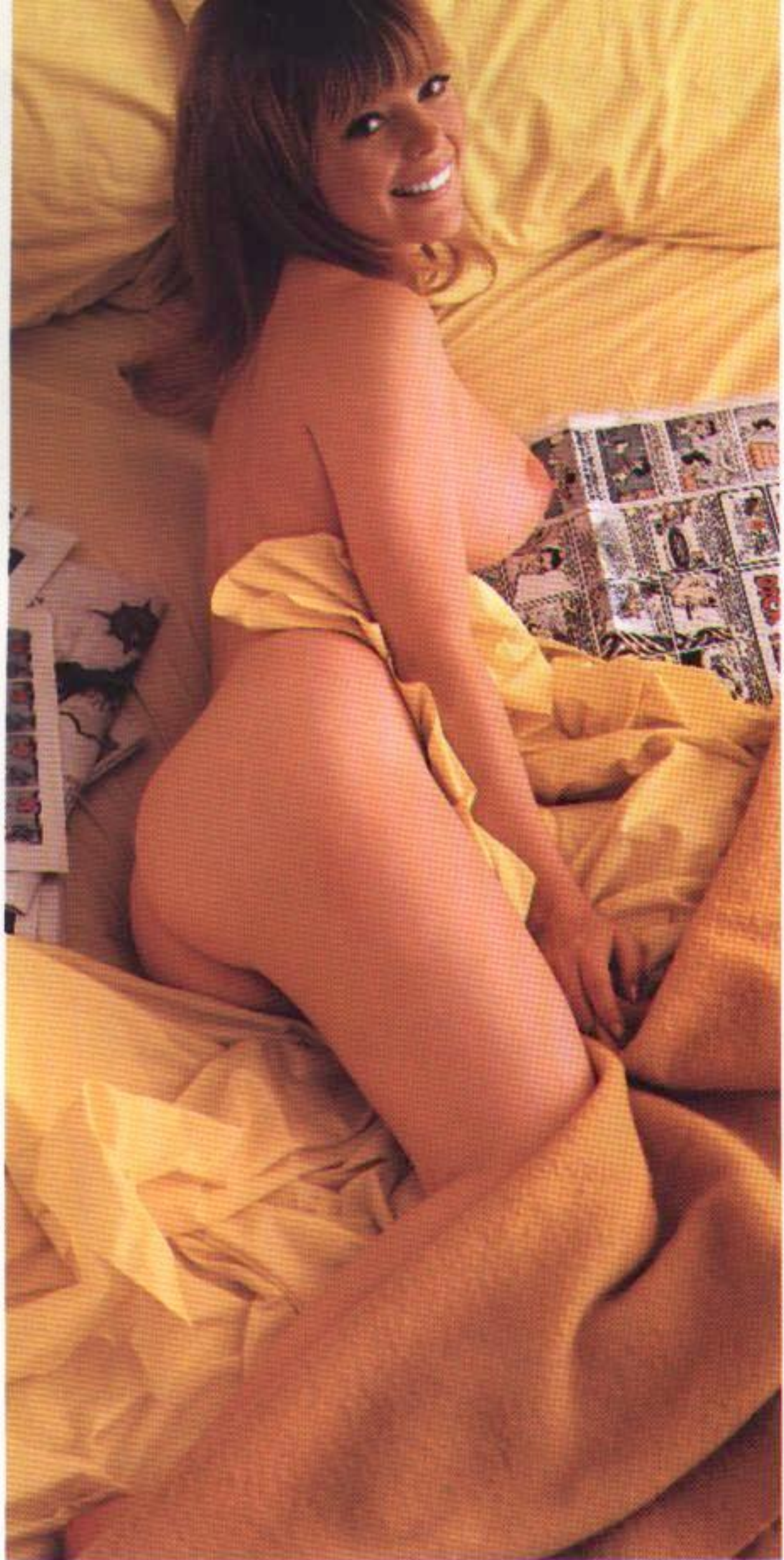


PHOTOGRAPHER

MELBA FIGGE on
LORRIE MENCONI

The day Lorrie Menconi's story came out, Hef had a party in the penthouse of the Playboy Building on Sunset and invited her. She was totally pregnant, about to have a baby any second, and she marched downstairs to the Playboy Club to look at her centerfold in the Playmate Bar, where she told everybody she was Playmate of the Month. Of course her story didn't say anything about her being married, let alone pregnant. Hef could have killed her.





Miss April 1969

Lorna Hopper

"I've got a lot of updating to do," Lorna commented when located by telephone. For one thing, she's changed her mind about L.A.'s being "the place to be," as she claimed when she became a Playmate (right). After getting a degree in English literature in the mid-Seventies, she worked for several educational institutions before becoming a teacher. "I've taught at every level from kindergarten through high school," she says, "but I'm ready to go back to school." With her daughter, aged eight—"I'm a single parent now and I'm proud of it"—Lorna (below) has moved to the Pacific Northwest and enrolled in a university graduate program. She hopes to earn a master's degree in special education and work with emotionally disturbed children.



Miss March 1969

Kathy MacDonald

Kathy (above) had been studying nursing at the University of Maryland when she got the notion of becoming a flight attendant. But the day before her job interview with an airline, her mother saw a Bunny recruitment ad for the Playboy Club and suggested she apply. Kathy never got to the airline interview, instead becoming a cottontail in Baltimore and Montreal. A date with TV producer David Sontag at a PLAYBOY party led to a brief marriage.

PHOTOGRAPHER

DAVID CHAN on KATHY MACDONALD

Kathy was my first Playmate. I found her when she was a Bunny in Baltimore. You know who was my assistant on that shooting? Jeff Cohen, who's now editor of the Playboy Newsstand Specials. She was a very girl-next-door type who took me to meet her parents. I was nervous about that, but they were very proud of her. Four years ago I was in Nebraska shooting *Girls of the Big Eight* and Kathy called me up. We were going to meet while I was there, but she was too busy. We never made connections. She's a nurse now.



Miss May 1969 *Sally Sheffield*

She was only 16 when she was judged one of the top ten riders in Manhattan's prestigious National Horse Show, and Sally (above) was still a New York City equestrienne when PLAYBOY selected her as Miss May. In between, she had earned a degree in psychology (with a minor in music) from Wellesley College and gone on to the New England Conservatory of Music to win a master's degree in musicology and a teaching fellowship in English literature. Her ambitions: "Good health, happiness, a solid marriage and a career to keep me from stagnating."

PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR *on*
SALLY SHEFFIELD

Sally was an interesting lady, so smart. I loved her. I shot her centerfold in the swimming pool at the Mansion in Chicago. She was pregnant, maybe two months. I did other shots in an apartment on Sheridan Road, and while we were shooting, outside the window here comes a window washer.

Miss June 1969

Helena Antonaccio

It's hard to believe that Helena Antonaccio (right) used to be shy. She claims her experience as a Playboy Bunny in Manhattan, where her Playmate picture story followed her through training (below left), taught her to be more outgoing. Still living in New Jersey and still charting horoscopes, she continues to model and serves as public relations spokesperson for several companies. What readers didn't know about Helena in 1969 was that she's an artist (below right). She's still in great shape (below center) thanks, she says, to "exercise, healthy living and good genes."



Miss July 1969 *Nancy McNeil*

"I have a surprise for you," said Nancy on the phone. "I'm a Jehovah's Witness! I ring doorbells!" Nancy, who works as a library assistant in Southern California, explained that she'd been an atheist until she was 40. "Then some Jehovah's Witnesses came to my door, and my mother always taught me to be polite, so I let them in. Once I started studying, it answered a lot of questions for me." Yet another wedding-party discovery by the Figges, Nancy says she posed for PLAYBOY (below) for vindication. "This gal I knew from high school asked me to be in her wedding, and she said, 'The Figges are doing pictures. Yeah, Nancy, you'll probably get in PLAYBOY,' and everybody laughed. I laughed, too, but I thought, What's so funny? I don't look that bad." For a time, Nancy even worked for the Figges. Her picture story showed her interacting with fellow employee Alison Reynolds (later a Playboy Studio West staffer and now a photographer in her own right) and clients O.J., Marquerite and baby Arnette Simpson, there to pose for a family portrait.





Miss August 1969

Debbie Hooper

Debbie (above and below) could have been the poster child for the late Sixties, driving a flower-painted VW Beetle, entertaining pals in a smoke-filled pad, disheartened by the defeat of Eugene McCarthy at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, derisive of ad copywriters "who make egg rolls look erotic but worry what sex is doing to their children." When next heard from, she had gone to work making television commercials.



Miss September 1969

Shay Knuth

Bilingual in English and Spanish, Shay (above) was the first Bunny hired to staff the VIP Room at Playboy's Lake Geneva, Wisconsin resort (left). After her centerfold bow, she transferred to the London hutch. "The last thing I did for PLAYBOY was a *Playmates Forever!* shooting [below] in 1984," she recalls. "At the time I was working at Studio 54 in New York, doing private corporate parties. In 1987 I left New York and went to Spain, where I sold real estate at Puerto Banus on the Costa del Sol." Had it not been for the Gulf war—and news of her father's illness back in Wisconsin—she might still be there, but she returned home. "He passed away about a year ago, so that was meant to be," she says. Shay now works as a marketing associate for a medical equipment manufacturer with policies she enjoys: "flexible hours and the freedom to wear whatever you want to work."





Miss October 1969 *Jean Bell*

Although she was photographed modeling for an Igloo ad, the folks at the ice-chest company claim that's not where they got the idea for the Playmate cooler. Jean (left) became a Bunny at the Los Angeles Playboy Club after her centerfold appeared and she caught the attention of Hollywood. Although she made nearly a dozen films in the early Seventies, among them *The Choirboys* and *T.N.T. Jackson*—often as Jeanne Bell—she got more newspaper ink from her 18-month love affair with actor Richard Burton. At the time she posed for Mario Casilli's camera in 1979's *Playmates Forever!* (above), she was planning a business of beauty franchises.

Miss December 1969

Gloria Root

"Sometime scholar and full-time radical" Gloria (right) believed in the inevitability of social upheaval in the U.S. and marched in an anti-Vietnam war demonstration through Chicago's Loop (inset). Now she's an activist in California.





Playboy After Dark

Hefner's second television series, *Playboy After Dark*, was taped in Los Angeles starting July 23, 1968, and PLAYBOY's founder began to spend more and more time there during its two-season run in syndication—finally moving to California in 1971. The program aired in some 40 U.S. and foreign markets; back home in Chicago, it drew well over 50 percent of late-night viewers in its time slot. Adding to its appeal: a mixture of celebrities and Playmates, among them (above) Dolly Read, Connie Kreski, Allison Parks and Cynthia Myers. At top right, China Lee gets into the swing; at right, Hef, Cynthia and Bill Cosby joke on the set.

Chris Cranston was a *Playboy After Dark* regular, and her appearance with Dick Martin and Dan Rowan was featured in her April 1971 Playmate story.





Miss November 1969

Claudia Jennings

1970 Playmate of the Year

In 1967 Mimi Chesterton and Todd McCarthy, a couple of juniors at Evanston High School near Chicago, teamed up to make a Super-8 movie called *Mimi*. Mimi, who changed her name to appear on PLAYBOY's centerfold (and a succeeding Playmate of the Year layout) as Claudia Jennings, used her modeling fee to finance a move to Hollywood. Todd went West, too, becoming the chief film critic for *Variety*, the showbiz bible, but it was Claudia who first won a place in the hearts of movie fans. After 26 movies with such titles as *The Love Machine* (she's with co-star John Phillip Law, director Jack Haley Jr. and Hef on the set, below), *Deathsport*, with David Carradine (below center), and *Unholy Rollers* (bottom), Claudia had established herself as a solid box-office attraction—earning the affectionate title “Queen of the B’s.” Just ten years after bursting onto the scene via PLAYBOY, Claudia, driving her VW convertible, was killed in a head-on collision on the Pacific Coast Highway.



PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on

CLAUDIA JENNINGS

Claudia was Mimi Chesterton, a receptionist on our floor. Many times I said to her, “Please try for Playmate,” and she would say, “Oh, no, I got no boobs.” One day it was lunchtime and nobody was around. I grabbed her by the hand and said, “Come with me into the studio,” and she did. What was so nice was that whenever I saw her in Los Angeles, after she became a movie actress, she always said, “Pompeo, you changed my life!”



WEST COAST PHOTO EDITOR

MARILYN GRABOWSKI on

CLAUDIA JENNINGS

Claudia was a good friend of mine. She was totally fascinating—she was one of the guys and one of the girls. There wasn't anybody who didn't love Claudia. Just before her death, she was so excited. She had been offered a really good movie and was on her way to read a script, I think, when she was killed. I remember that night—I went outside and screamed.



THE SEVENTIES





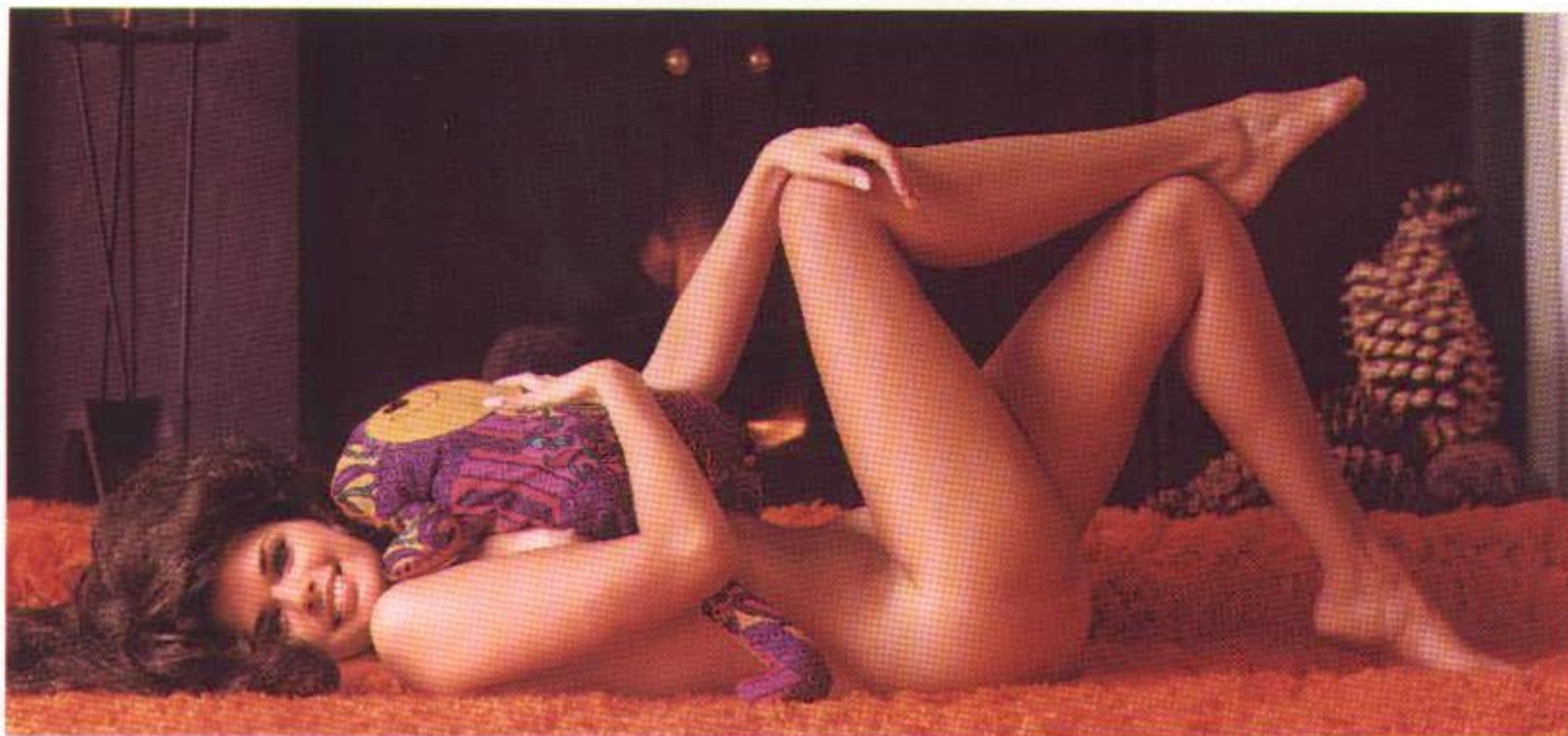
Miss January 1970 *Jill Taylor*

Jill's all-American-girl look (left) doubtlessly inspired the pillow-fight sequence in her Playmate pictorial. Her interests included fashion design, but she detested the then-popular unisex look. "Why should I go around looking like a guy?" she questioned, rhetorically.



Miss February 1970 *Linda Forsythe*

Staff Photographer Pompeo Posar accompanied Linda (above) on a Manhattan apartment hunt that left both winded but provided plenty of location shots to accompany her centerfold. Linda used her modeling fee to finance studies in sociology at New York University.



Miss March 1970

Christine Koren

"PLAYBOY was a thrilling time in my life," says Christine (left), "probably the best experience I had before meeting my husband." That happened at a Bee Gees concert the night she returned to Ohio from 1979's Playmate Reunion party. "We've been married 13 years, have three children and a quiet, peaceful life full of involvement with community, church and school activities. We're born-again Christians, but not the fire-and-brimstone kind."

Previous spread: Marilyn Lange, Miss May 1974 and 1975 Playmate of the Year.



Miss April 1970 *Barbara Hillary*

"This book is a great thing for you to be doing," observes Barbara (above), "because 50 years from now people will still be rehashing our history, but it would only be based on hearsay and previously published information." Barbara herself has made a major lifestyle change, from working as a Bunny in New York to a career as an RN (getting her degree, inset) in the Pacific Northwest. A highlight: volunteering to assist in cataract surgery—"we did about 20 procedures a day"—on a medical mission to the Philippines. Below: previewing dinner at her brother-in-law's home in Alaska in 1970.



Miss May 1970 *Jennifer Liano*

"I got carded twice last week," says Jennifer (above), "which I thought was pretty good at the age of 48." Active as a fund-raiser for abused children in California, Jennifer is proudest of her three offspring—the eldest son a magna cum laude Phi Beta Kappa college grad, the second son a model and her only daughter a "gorgeous teen."

Miss June 1970 *Elaine Morton*

A free-spirited flower child at the time of her Playmate shooting (below), Elaine moved with her boyfriend to Hawaii "to go surfing. I remained and he left, but we had a child together and I raised her on my own." Eight years after her centerfold, Elaine's cousin Karen Morton joined her as a Playmate (Miss July 1978). After spending some 15 years waitressing, Elaine elected to go back to college, majoring in French, and has become a teacher ("although I haven't taught any French yet"). Why teaching? "A lot of wonderful things have happened in my life and I wanted to give something back to the community," she explains. Her current assignment is teaching teens parenting skills. That's Elaine today (inset).



Miss July 1970 *Carol Willis*

Proud of her Cherokee heritage, Carol (above) pointed out that the Cherokee nation had its own written language and was the first to publish its own newspaper. In a way, Carol also toiled in the field of communications, working for a telephone answering service.

Miss September 1970 *Debbie Ellison*

Debbie (below) was studying dance when she made her PLAYBOY bow. After earning degrees in fine arts and dance from Boston Conservatory and a graduate certificate in management from Radcliffe—as well as Bunny-hopping in New York and Boston, where she served on the board of a dance company—she continues to take classes in modern and jazz dance while working part-time as a travel agent on the opposite coast. "PLAYBOY was a big footnote in American pop sociological history," Debbie believes. "It was a brief episode in my life, but it got me to Europe and got me an education." As the parents of three boys, Debbie and her husband, Jim, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.



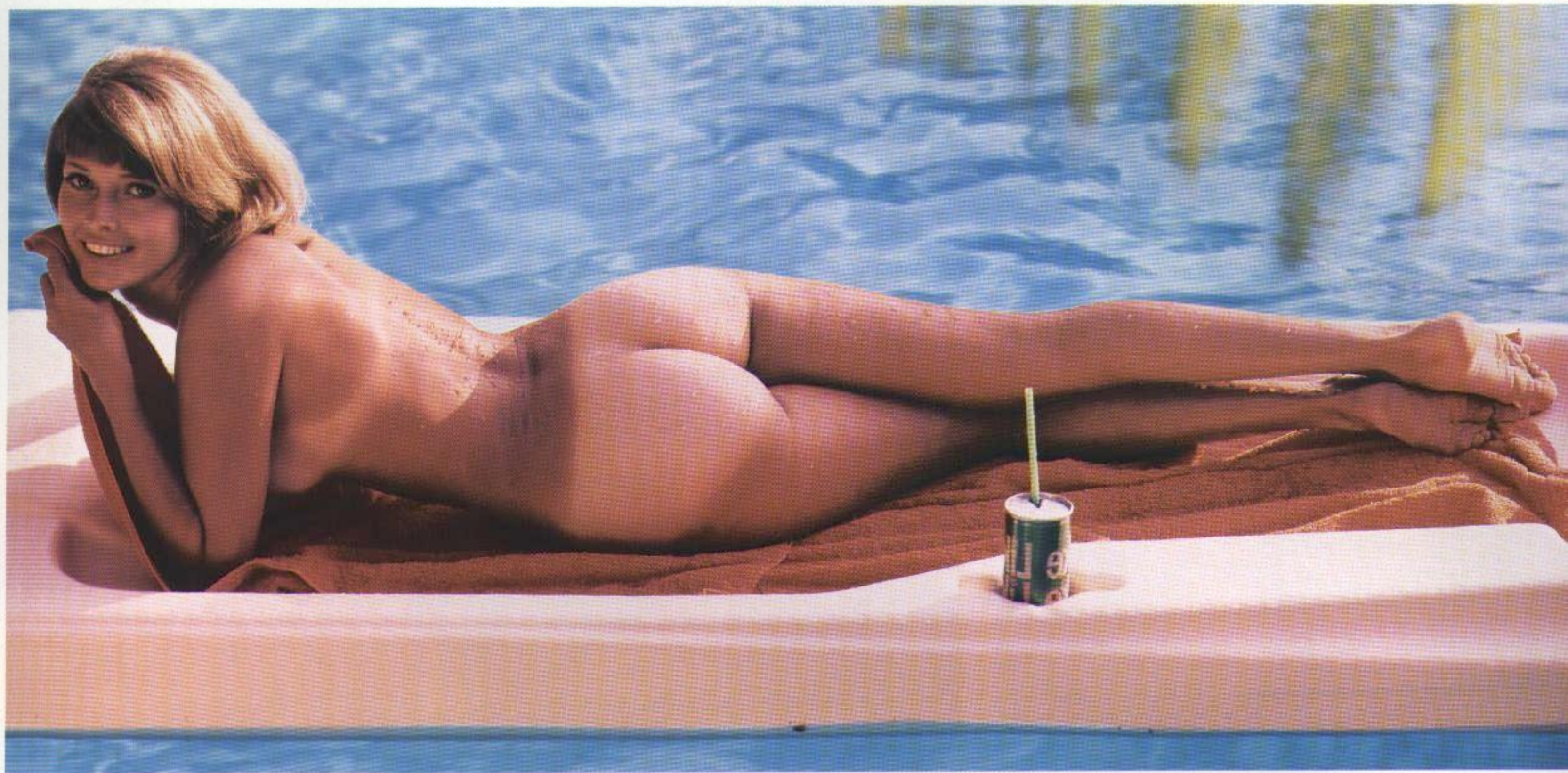
PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR

on

CAROL WILLIS

We traveled down to Baja California to do some pictures of Carol, and it was impossible to find a place to stay, so finally we just camped on the beach—and our car got stuck in the sand. Maybe 18 months later my telephone rang at two or three in the morning, and it was Carol's husband telling me that she had died in an accident in her Volkswagen.

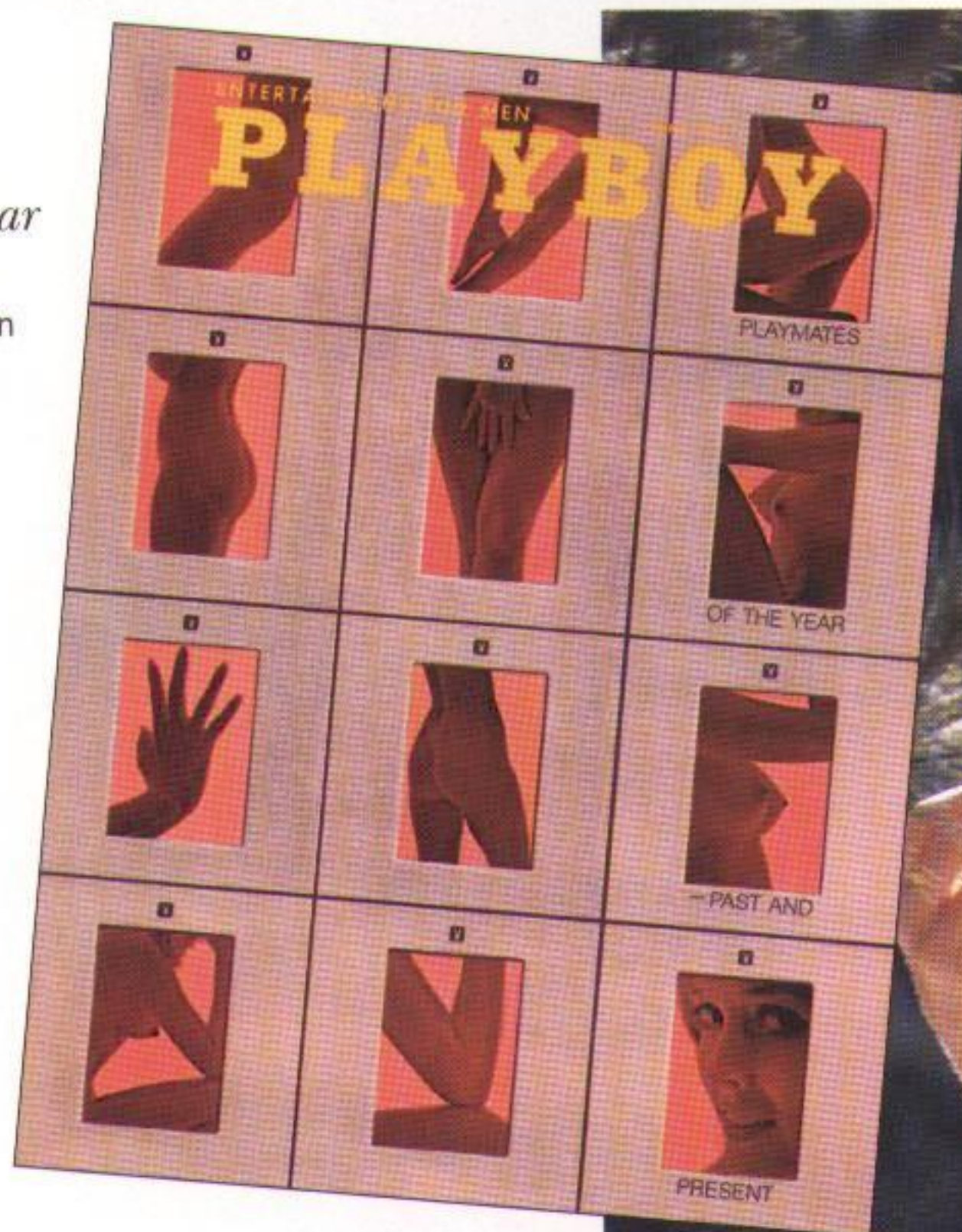


Miss August 1970

Sharon Clark

1971 Playmate of the Year

Although she questioned the impact of American culture on the Micronesian archipelago of Truk—administered after World War Two by a U.S. trusteeship—Sharon valued her experience as a Peace Corps teacher there. “I just learned that I don’t really groove on the simple life—much as I hate to see it destroyed. I like to see cars moving on four-lane highways. I miss the movies and skiing trips. I even miss the changes in climate.” Readers were, accordingly, unsurprised when Sharon returned to the U.S.—just in time to be cover girl and 1971’s top Playmate (right). The following year, she joined Hef and Warren Beatty at a Mansion party (below).





Misses October 1970

Mary and Madeleine Collinson

In the effort to fit the magazine's first twin Playmates on a centerfold (left), Dwight Hooker shot somewhere between 700 and 800 sheets of eight-by-ten film—a world's record, according to Photo Director Gary Cole. They starred in the classic Hammer Films vampire flick, *Twins of Evil*, and in *The Love Machine* with John Phillip Law. Madeleine married a Royal Air Force officer, had three children (David, 16, Mary-Jane, 15, and Claire, 12) and moved back home to Malta, where she works for the British Council, an organization that encourages the use of English by sponsoring cultural events and sending students to study in Britain. Her husband, now retired from the service, is a property manager. Madeleine reports that Mary, the mother of daughters Natasha, 18, and Adelaide, 12, "has been living with an Italian gentleman for the past 22 years in Milan," adding a request to send their "love to Hefner and a big kiss to Dwight."





Miss November 1970

Avis Miller

The first Jet Bunny to become a Playmate, Avis (above and below) characterized Hefner's DC-9 *Big Bunny* as "the only way to fly." Avis was one of five Jet Bunnies who accompanied Hef, girlfriend Barbi Benton and other pals on 1970's famous maxi-vacation to Europe and Africa. Avis joined the cottontail corps in Phoenix, later transferring to San Francisco and Los Angeles.



Miss December 1970 *Carol Imhof*

The Chicago Playboy Club's first Bunny of the Year, Carol (above) tied for first runner-up in the international cottontail contest held at Playboy's Lake Geneva, Wisconsin resort in 1969. Before becoming a genuine centerfold, Carol impersonated "Mrs. February," PLAYBOY's idea of a *Family Circle* Helpmate of the Month, in the spoof *How Other Magazines Would Photograph a Playmate*.



Miss January 1971

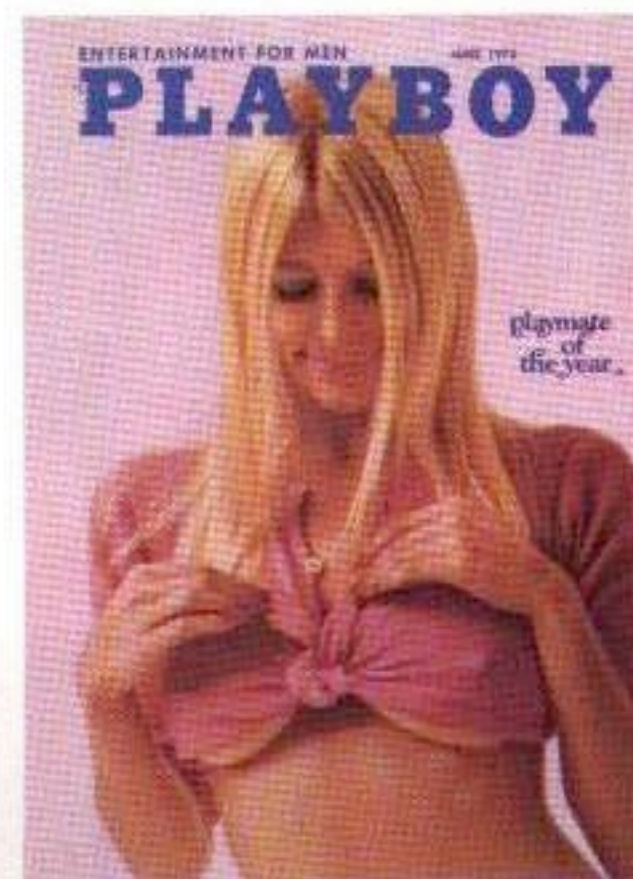
Liv Lindeland

1972 Playmate of the Year

Liv's history-making centerfold (below) highlighted the first hint of pubic hair. After her Playmate of the Year pictorial (right), Liv first pursued a theatrical career, sharing a Minneapolis stage with actor Dana Andrews in a production of *The Marriage-Go-Round* and winning several movie roles—all of which prepared her to become a talent agent. "With my girlfriend Sherri Spillane—Mickey's ex-wife—I went to work for the Ruth Webb Talent Agency. We



had 46 pretty big people, from Mickey Rooney on, all the old ones, because Ruth was the queen of the theater. I wore myself out in a year, but it was great." Liv posed for the first *Playmates Forever!* in 1979 (bottom center). These days Liv and her third husband, Tony Martin Jr. (inset)—son of Tony Sr. and dancer Cyd Charisse—live in Hawaii, where they continue to be active in local theater. This year they celebrated their 14th anniversary—and Liv's 50th birthday.





Miss February 1971 *Willy Rey*

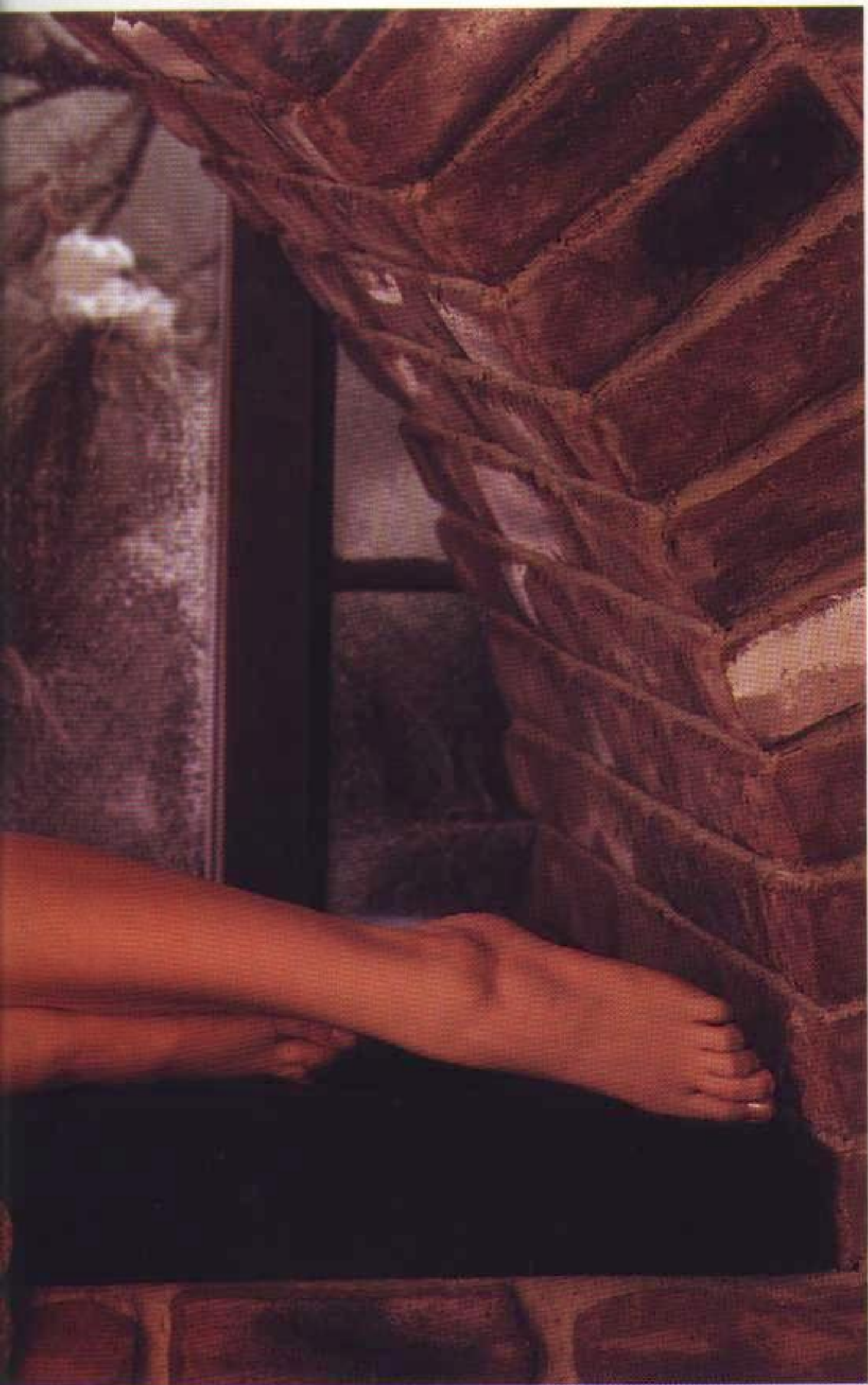
She moved with her parents from the Netherlands to Vancouver, British Columbia and said she enjoyed living at home. Willy's centerfold shot (above) gained notoriety by appearing on the first stock certificate issued by PLAYBOY when it went public in 1971 (right).



PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN HONEY *on* WILLY REY

This was a girl who didn't drink, didn't smoke. But she did have asthma and was subject to severe mood swings. After a trip to Japan, she had a nervous breakdown and was put on prescription medication. I talked with her the day before she died in 1973—and she was happy, all set to go on to university. She reportedly died of a drug overdose, but her parents believe that she inadvertently took too many of her prescription pills.



Miss March 1971
Cynthia Hall

A former dental assistant, Cynthia (right) found work as a Bunny at the Playboy Resort Hotel in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (left)—where she could indulge her interests in riding and sailing—more to her liking. At last report, she was living in Virginia.



Miss April 1971

Chris Cranston

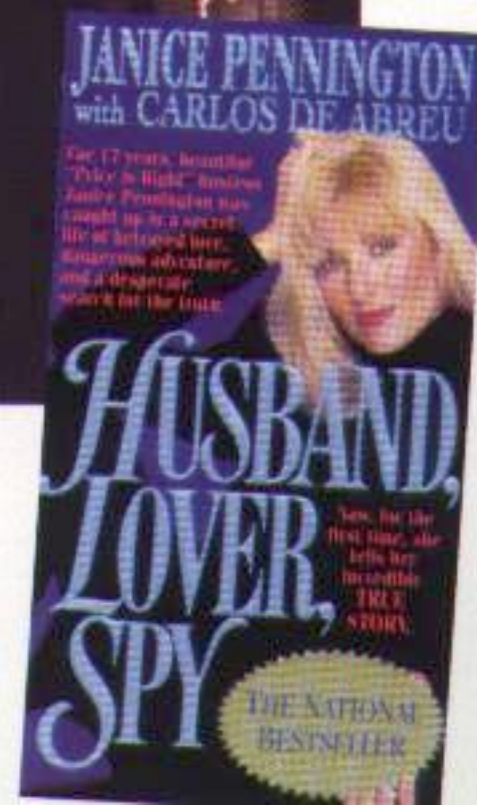
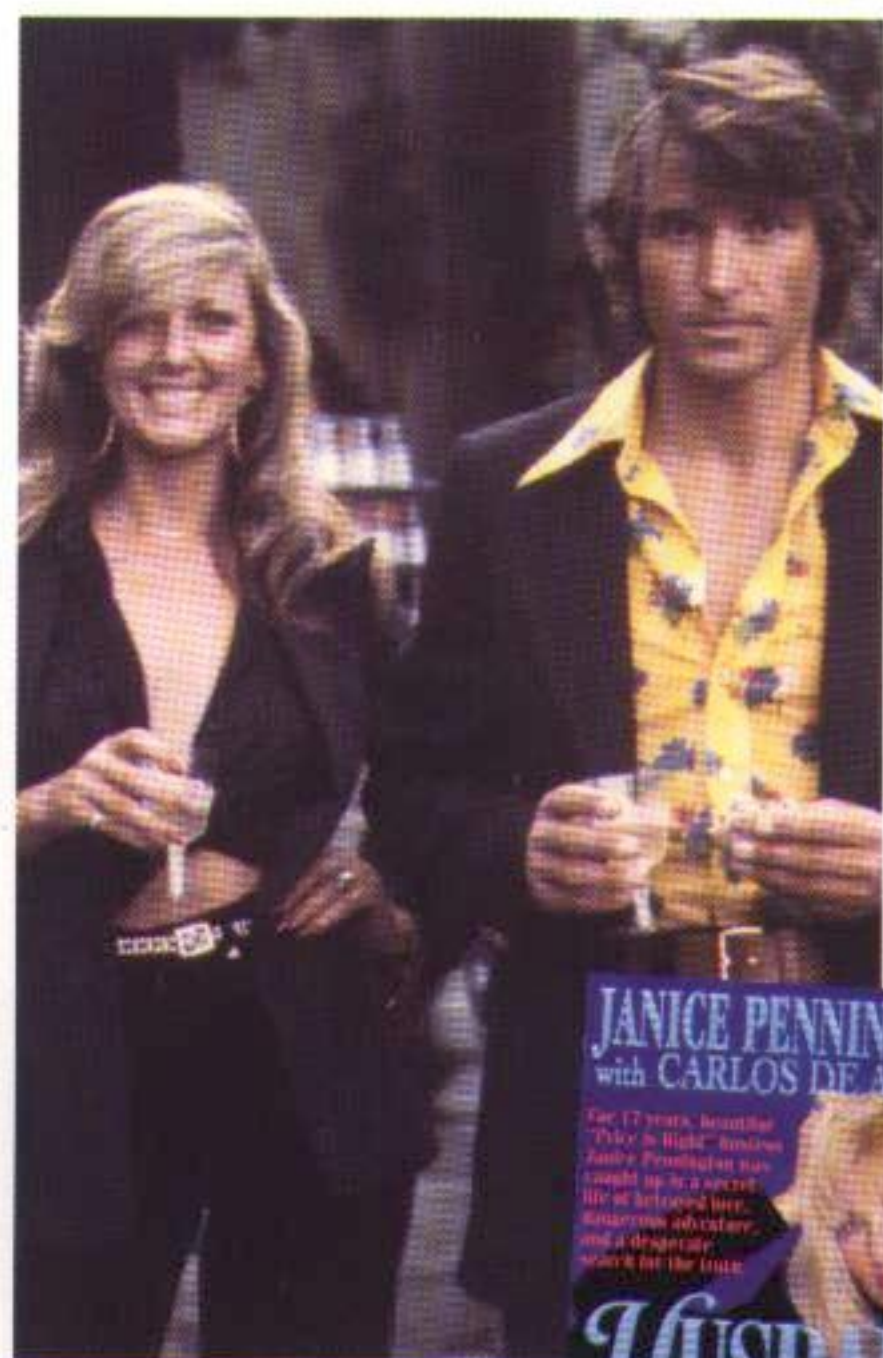
One of the chorines in the film *Funny Girl*, Chris (left) made her debut in PLAYBOY's pages in the 1968 *Girls of "Funny Girl"* pictorial. Shortly afterward, she was signed as a regular on the *Playboy After Dark* television show. Rivaling her centerfold in Chris' book of memories: a USO-sponsored visit to American troops in Vietnam.



Miss May 1971

Janice Pennington

In her Playmate spread, Janice (left) was photographed doing a guest spot on the comedy classic *Laugh-In* (below). A heartbeat later, she was signed as a hostess on *The Price Is Right*, a job she has held virtually ever since. Mystery entered her life with the 1975 disappearance of her then husband, Fritz Stammberger (with Janice at Playboy Mansion West in 1974, below center), on a mountain-climbing expedition near Afghanistan. Rumors that Stammberger may have been a U.S. spy or even a Russian double agent were recounted in Janice's best-selling paperback *Husband, Lover, Spy* (bottom), written with her present husband, Carlos de Abreu, and published in 1994. Although the couple also took the search for Fritz' remains onto the Internet (<http://HusbandLoverSpy.com>), their efforts have so far proved futile.





Miss June 1971 *Lieko English*

What's Japanese-American and English? was the rhetorical question posed by a PLAYBOY headline writer given the task of characterizing Miss June. The answer: Lieko English (left), who five years earlier, at the age of 18, had represented her homeland as Miss Okinawa in the Miss Universe competition at Miami Beach. Lieko worked as a cottontail in the Atlanta and Chicago Playboy Clubs and aboard Hugh Hefner's jet-black jet, the *Big Bunny* (below).



Miss July 1971 *Heather Van Every*

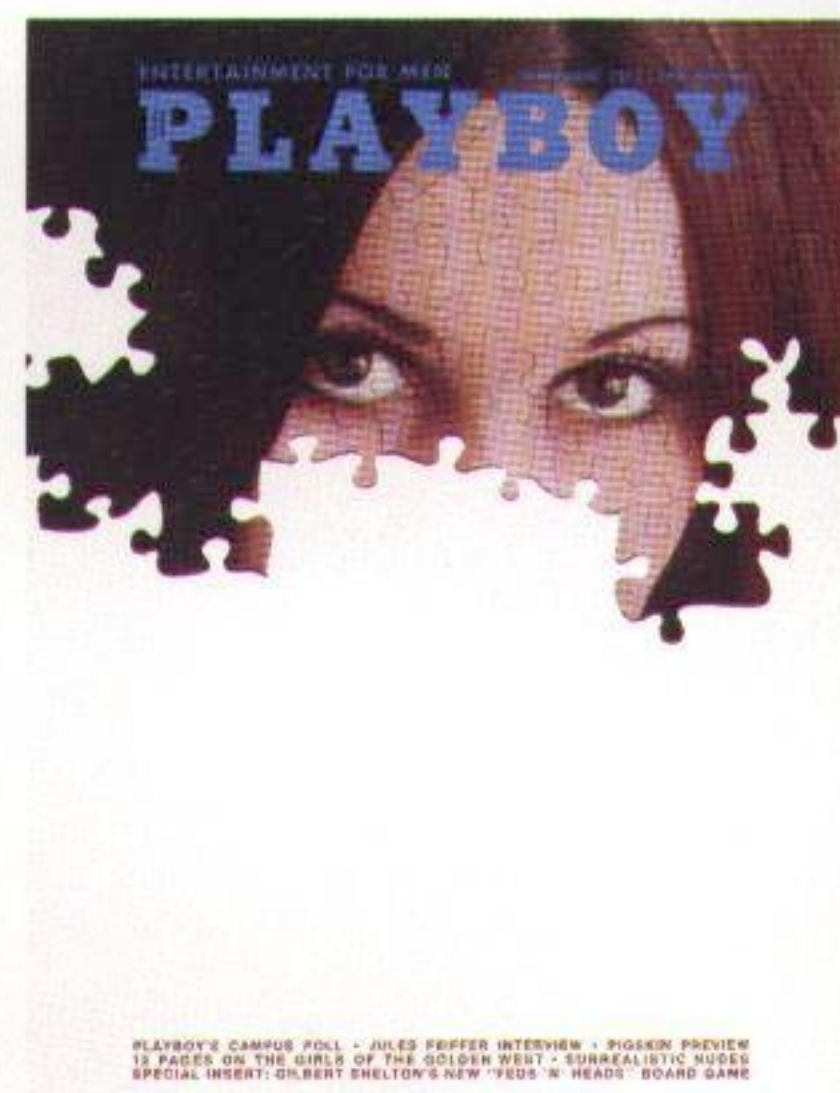
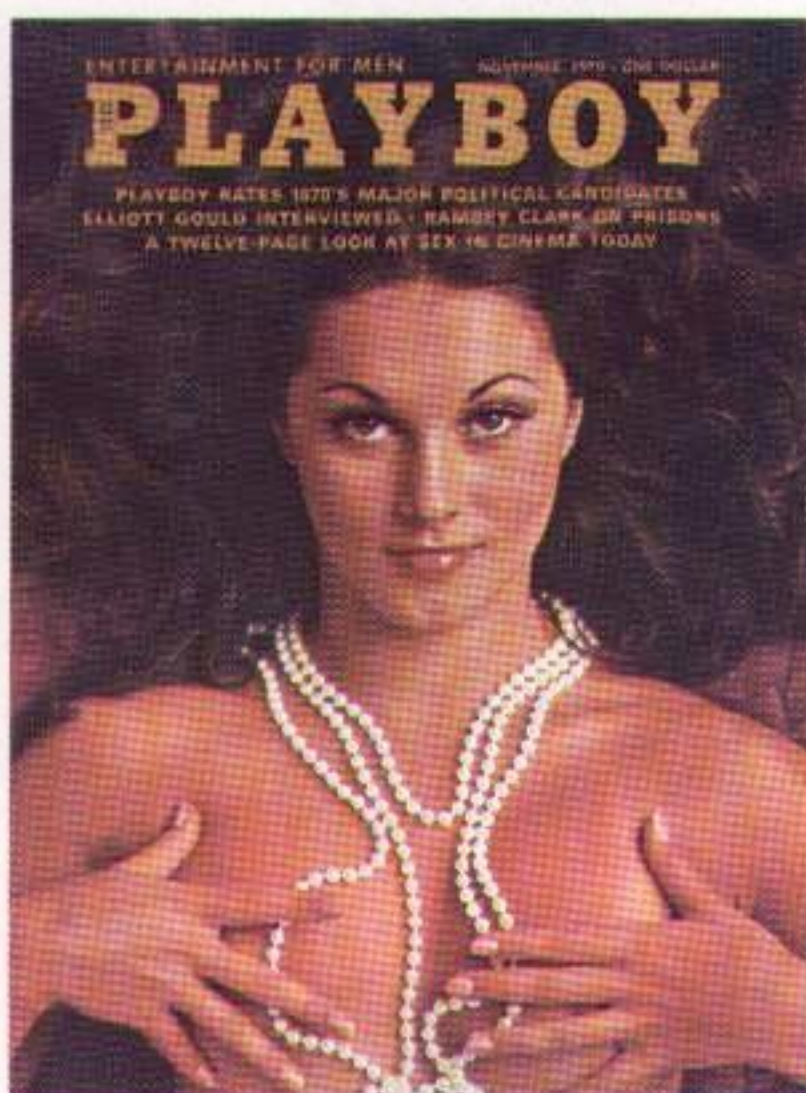
She was a Bunny in Denver, and Heather (below) still enjoys the Rocky Mountains' high, which affords ample opportunities for her and her husband to pursue outdoor hobbies such as skiing, trail-biking, riding horses, and camping.





Miss September 1971 *Crystal Smith*

Two-time cover girl, Bunny and holder of a degree in radio-television from Kansas State University, Crystal (bottom) honed her broadcasting skills by anchoring the popular *Sexcetera* news show for eight years on the Playboy Channel. Today (inset) she and her husband own a video production company in Las Vegas. Their pet project, a charity called the Homeless Job Hotline, has made the network news. "Las Vegas is a fast-growing city with a fast-growing homeless population," she explained. The hotline has produced video résumés for jobless persons; still needed, says Crystal, are office space and additional funding.



PLAYBOY'S CAMPUS POLL • JULES REIFER INTERVIEW • PIGEON PREVIEW
13 PAGES ON THE GIRLS OF THE GOLDEN WEST • SURREALISTIC NUDES
SPECIAL INSERT: GILBERT SHELTON'S NEW "FEES & HEADS" BOARD GAME

Miss August 1971 *Cathy Rowland*

"People can't believe how old I am," says Cathy today (inset). "I'm 46 and I don't have a mark on me." Earlier evidence appeared on her centerfold (above) and in *Playmates Forever! Part Two*, April 1984 (below). Proud holder of a new master scuba-diving certificate, Cathy took up the sport as a Bunny in Jamaica. She and her husband have a recording studio near Universal Studios in California, where she does the occasional background or voice-over part. Cathy has always been a singer, but has recently expanded her repertoire to include Gregorian chant.





Miss October 1971 *Claire Rambeau*

"I never considered myself a sex symbol," Claire declares. "I was a fashion model, and it kind of freaked me out that being a Playmate was such a big deal to the general public. I'm just a normal person, kind of a tomboy." Her centerfold (above) also appeared in the first German edition of *PLAYBOY*, but it's the shots she did with Pompeo Posar in the Arizona desert (below) that Claire liked best. This one was published in the Posar portfolio *The Lens of Love* (*PLAYBOY*, June 1985).



Miss November 1971 *Danielle de Vabre*

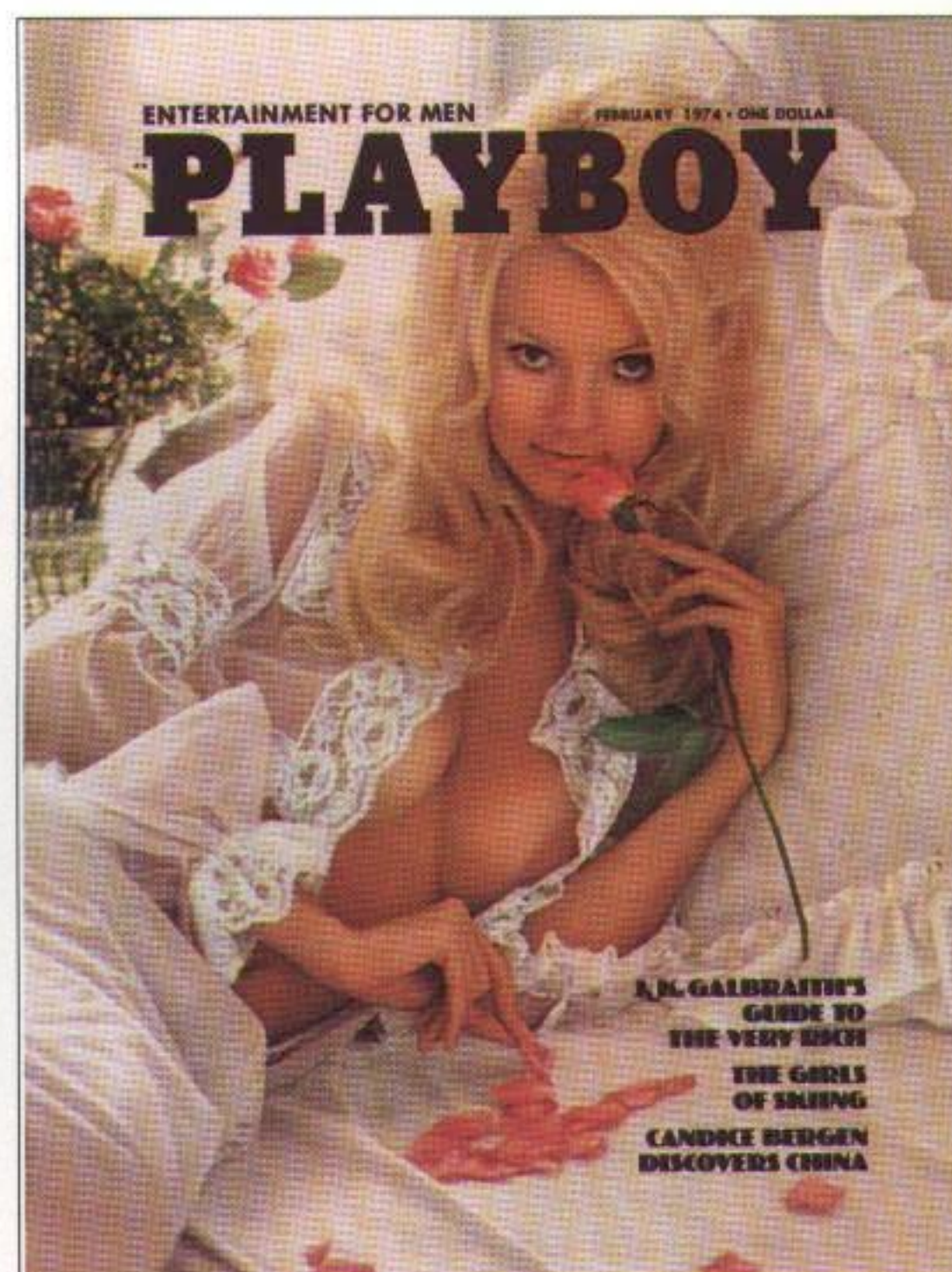
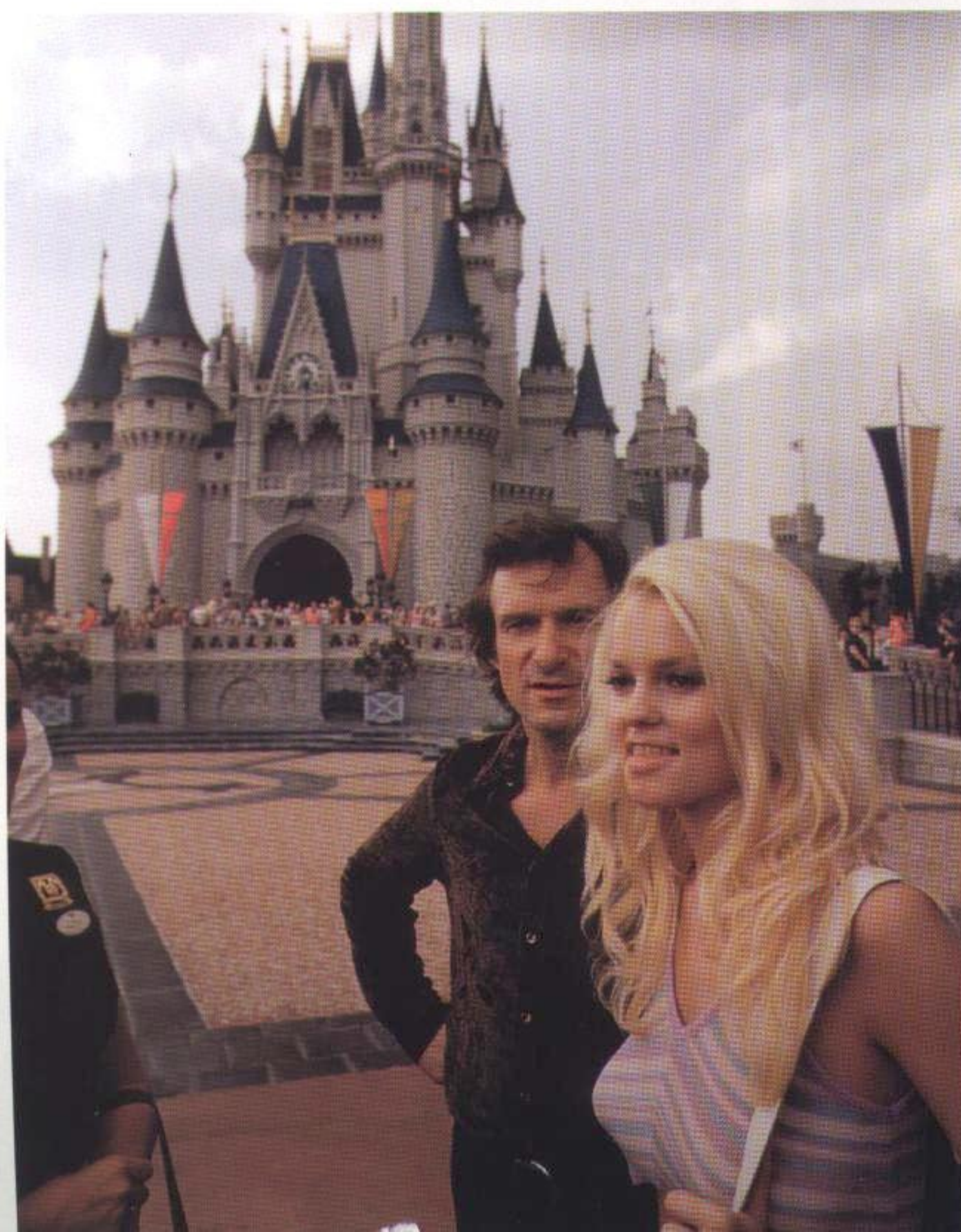
Danielle (above) spent her Playmate earnings on a European vacation, from which she returned with a new hobby: chess. Once a Bunny at the Montreal Playboy Club, this French Canadian also spent time as a ski instructor in Colorado's Steamboat Springs.



Miss December 1971

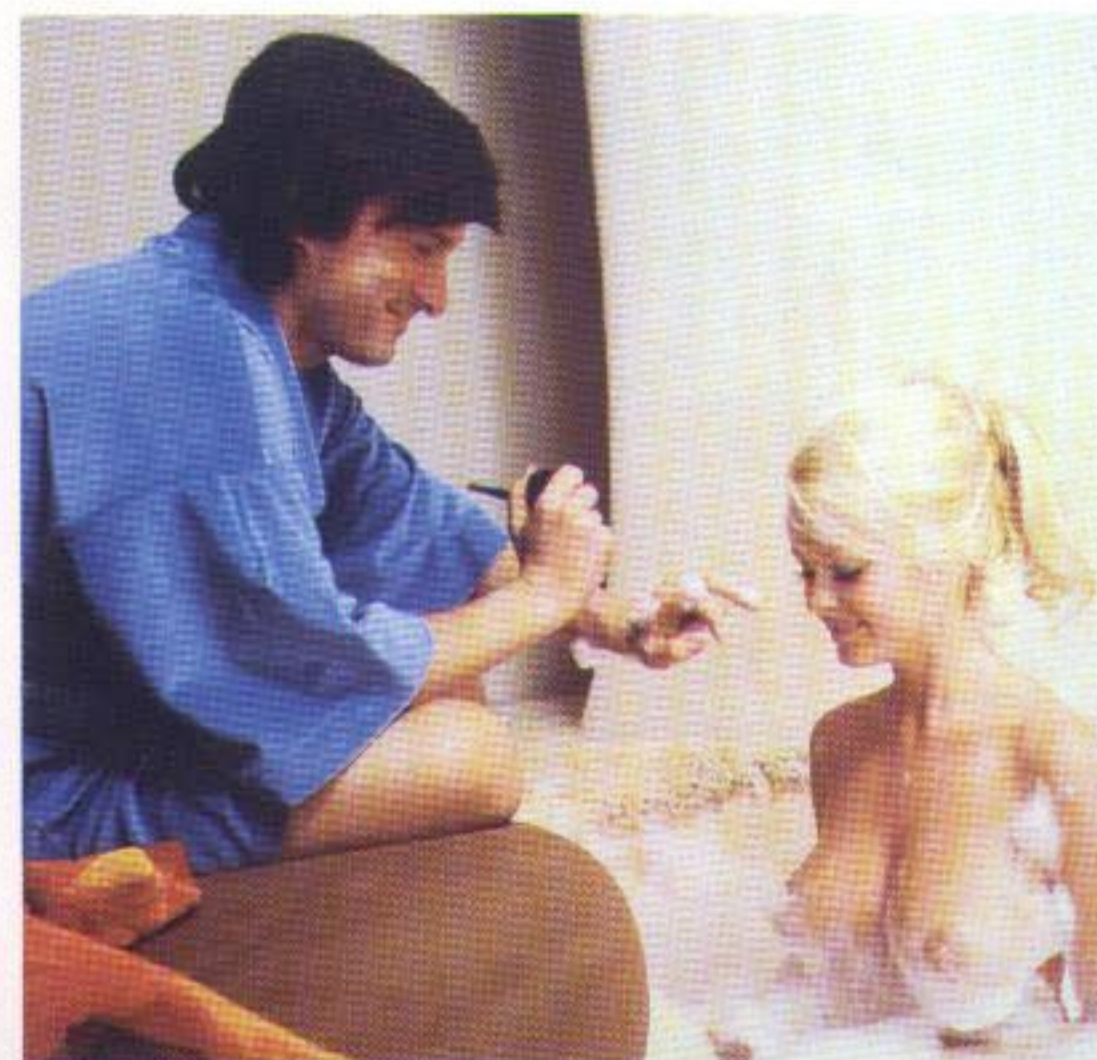
Karen Christy

Karen Christy's installation as Hefner's girlfriend in Chicago's Playboy Mansion irked her transcontinental rival, non-Playmate Barbi Benton, who was ensconced as the hostess of Playboy Mansion West. It was a period in Hefner's life that he calls "the Captain's Paradise," after the Alec Guinness film about a seafarer with woman on each side of the Straits of Gibraltar. At the Mansion in Chicago, Hef introduces Karen to comedian Sid Caesar and his manager (below) and shares a tender moment with her in its Roman bath (bottom right). In April 1972 the couple visited Disney World in Florida (bottom), and in February 1974 Karen was the cover girl for the magazine's Valentine issue (right).



HEF on KAREN CHRISTY

This 20-year-old native of Abilene, Texas, a student at North Texas State University in Denton, came to Chicago in 1971 to become a Bunny. Instead, she became the December centerfold and a major romantic interest in my life. Karen reminded me of the pre-Production Code beauties in Busby Berkeley musicals and of the heroine in the first *Flash Gordon* serial. I was crazy about her. I split my time between her at the Playboy Mansion in Chicago and Barbi Benton at Playboy Mansion West in Los Angeles, flying back and forth between the two cities on the *Big Bunny* every week. When my romance with Karen became too intense, I lost Barbi, and when I tried to put that romance back together, I lost Karen.



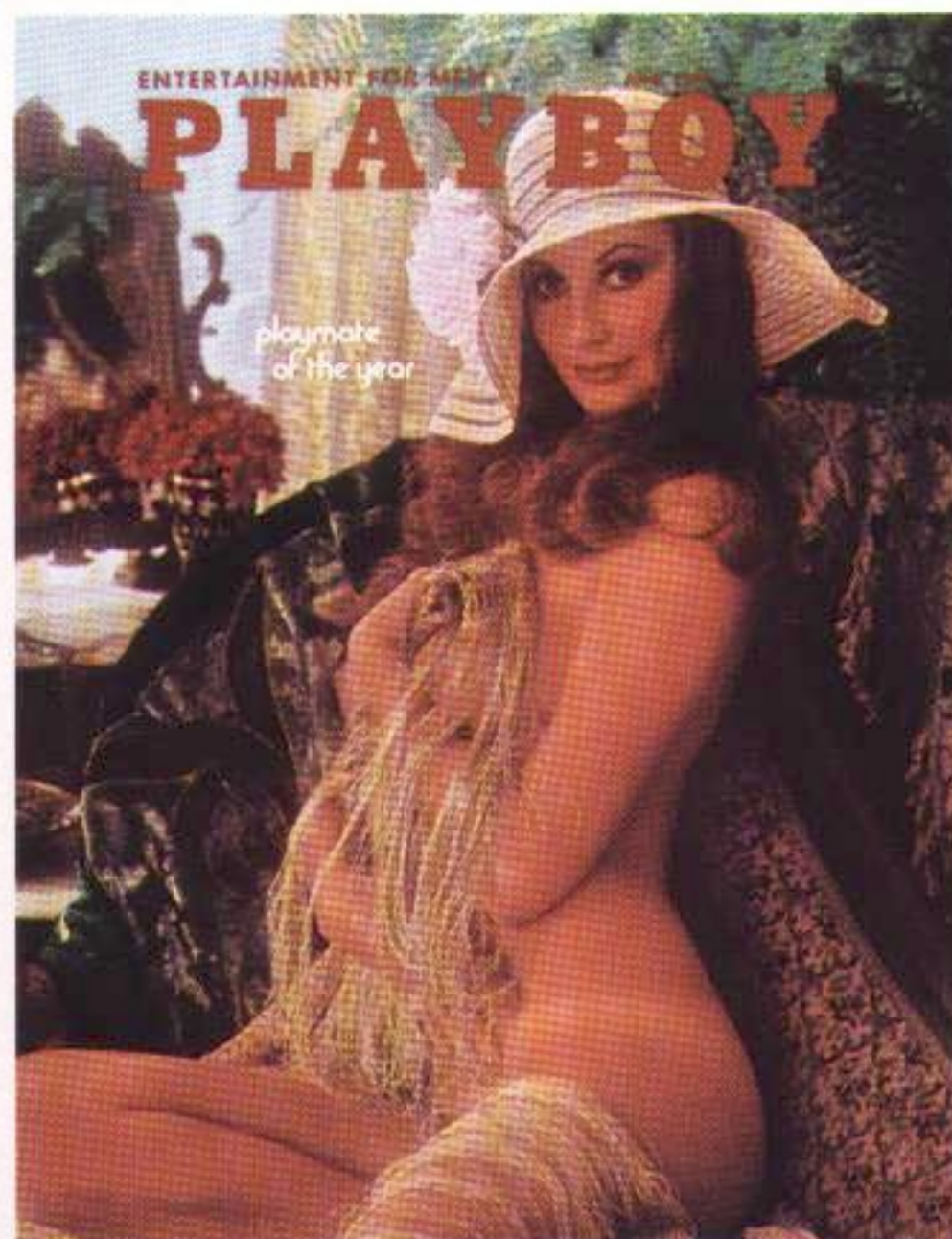
Miss January 1972

Marilyn Cole

1973 Playmate of the Year

"I've come full circle from being a Bunny (right) and doing PR at the London Club," says Marilyn, who has recently been helping a couple of New York publishers promote their books. After her centerfold, for which she posed "with nothing on—and nothing false—apart from my eyelashes"—she dated

Hefner, PLAYBOY exec Victor Lowmes (then head of the company's British operations), rocker Bryan Ferry and a British baron before settling down and marrying Lowmes in 1984. For a time in 1989, she marketed the Minikini bathing suit (inset, Marilyn seated at right). "She was always a looker," her father told a reporter in 1972. Years later, as evidenced in *Playmates Forever! Part Two* (below), she still was, and remains so today. The Lowmeses now maintain homes in London, Aspen and New York, and Marilyn is pursuing American citizenship.

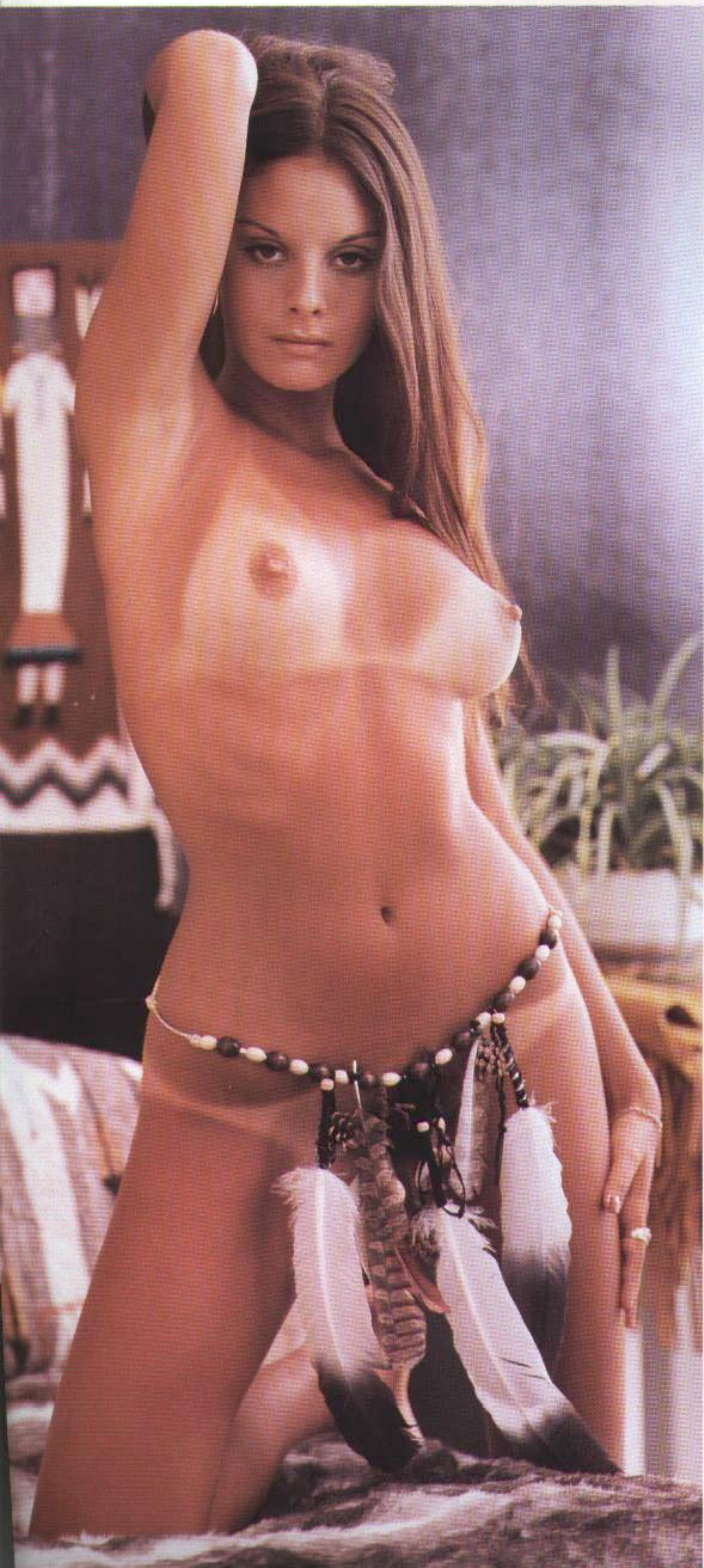




Miss February 1972

P.J. Lansing

When her centerfold (right) was shot, P.J. was working in a fabric shop in Boulder, Colorado and planning a backpacking trip through Scandinavia. Before the year was out, she had left the Rockies in favor of a job as a Bunny at the Chicago Playboy Club.



Miss March 1972 *Ellen Michaels*

You've seen her face on innumerable romance-novel covers (below right), ads and commercials for such products as Diet Pepsi, Yamaha motorcycles, Sony stereo equipment and Kodak film. Ever since appearing in PLAYBOY's centerfold (left) and posing for artist LeRoy Neiman (below), Ellen has been a much-sought-after model, "although these days I spend a good deal of my time working with those less fortunate—the elderly, the disabled and the impaired." Back in 1972 she expressed a desire to move to Miami. "That dream remains a dream," she says, "but maybe someday it will become a reality." Still a New Yorker, Ellen (as she looks today, bottom center) enjoys reading, drawing, playing classical piano, visiting museums, going to the theater and romping with her teacup Yorkie, Shari.





Miss April 1972

Vicki Peters

"You know, I think I prefer my looks today," says Vicki, who, after a decade as a successful model and actress, is a partner in a California real estate firm "specializing in high-end properties." That's Vicki in her *Playmate Review* pose at left, and as she is now (below). Married and divorced, she is raising a 12-year-old daughter "who's probably going to be following in my footsteps. I'm sure she's going to be a model."



Miss June 1972 *Debbie Davis*

"After I was a Playmate, I took my money and ran," Debbie (below) recalls. "I knew I wanted to get the heck out of Burbank, so I posed for the magazine and left for Hawaii, where I lived off my PLAYBOY money until it ran out, and then started waitressing." She's still in Hawaii but now devotes most of her time to her husband and two hula-dancing daughters, ages 11 and 15. Debbie still keeps in touch with fellow Playmate Elaine Morton, a friend since Burbank days, when they toiled together after school at a local Taco Bell.



Miss May 1972 *Deanna Baker*

Her job as a Bumper-Pool Bunny at the Denver Playboy Club afforded Deanna (left) a chance to interact with keyholders who vied for the VICI CUNICULAM plaque awarded to those who bested the Bunny. "I think it has helped me become more flexible and understanding in dealing with people."



Miss July 1972

Carol O'Neal

A Playboy Building receptionist for two years, Carol (left) had just been given new responsibilities—screening job applicants for the company's Personnel Department—when she was chosen to star in the magazine's centerfold. Her most important responsibility, as she saw it, was putting aspirants at ease, a skill she'd honed while working as a flight attendant.

PHOTOGRAPHER

RICHARD FEGLEY

on

CAROL O'NEAL

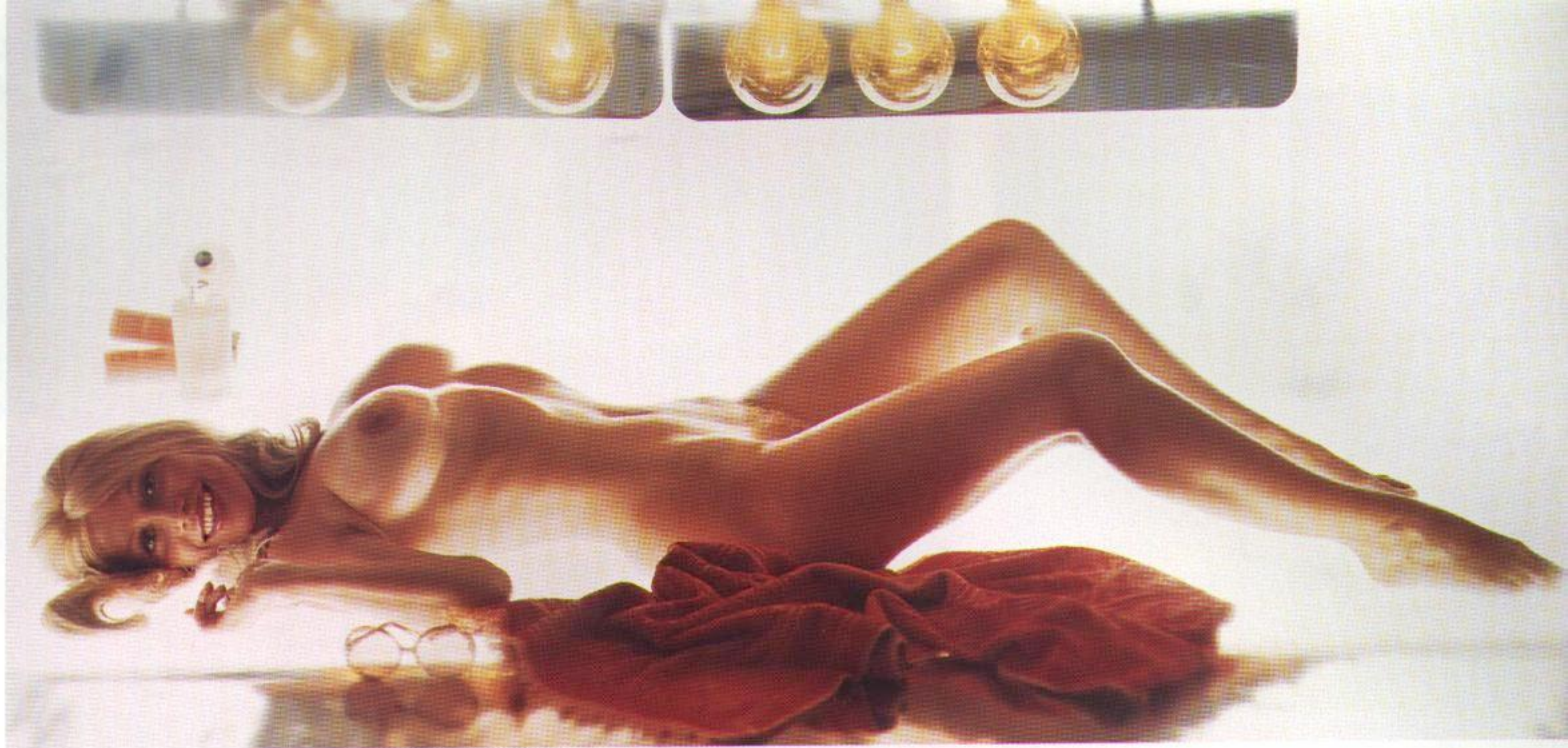
Carol was my first Playmate, and we did some pictures down in the bar in the new Playboy Towers next door to the office. Bobby Douglass, who was the quarterback for the Chicago Bears, was there and we used him in the photographs (right). They dated, got married and moved to Lake Forest. Later they broke up.



Miss August 1972 Linda Summers

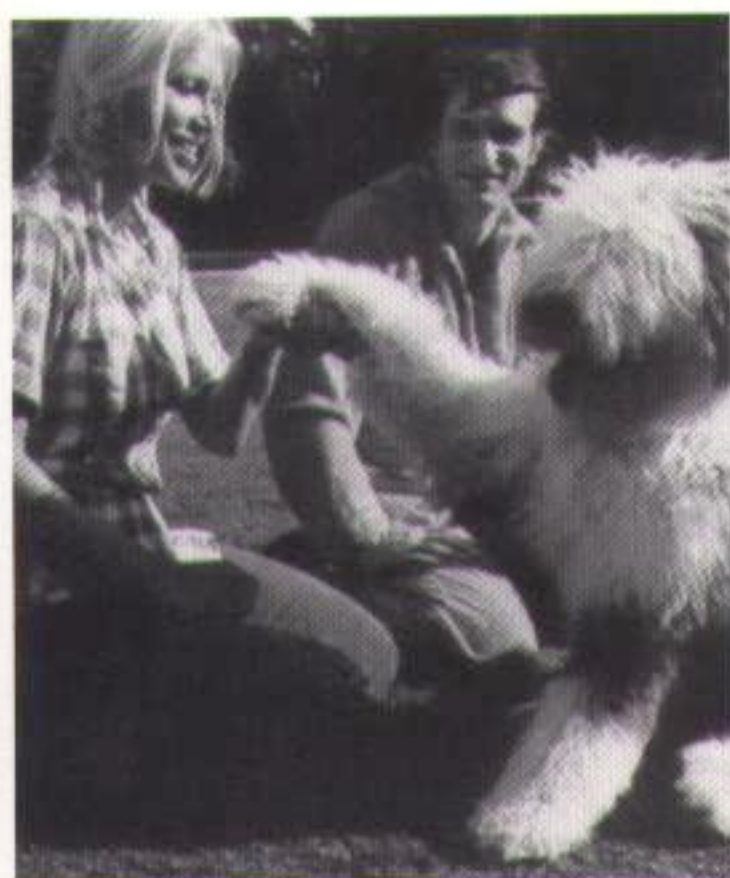
When Linda Summers' centerfold (below) turned up in PLAYBOY, business picked up exponentially at the San Diego area health food store where she was working. In the story accompanying her layout, she sang the praises of organic beef and stone-ground whole wheat bread. Later, she became an escrow officer for a real estate firm.





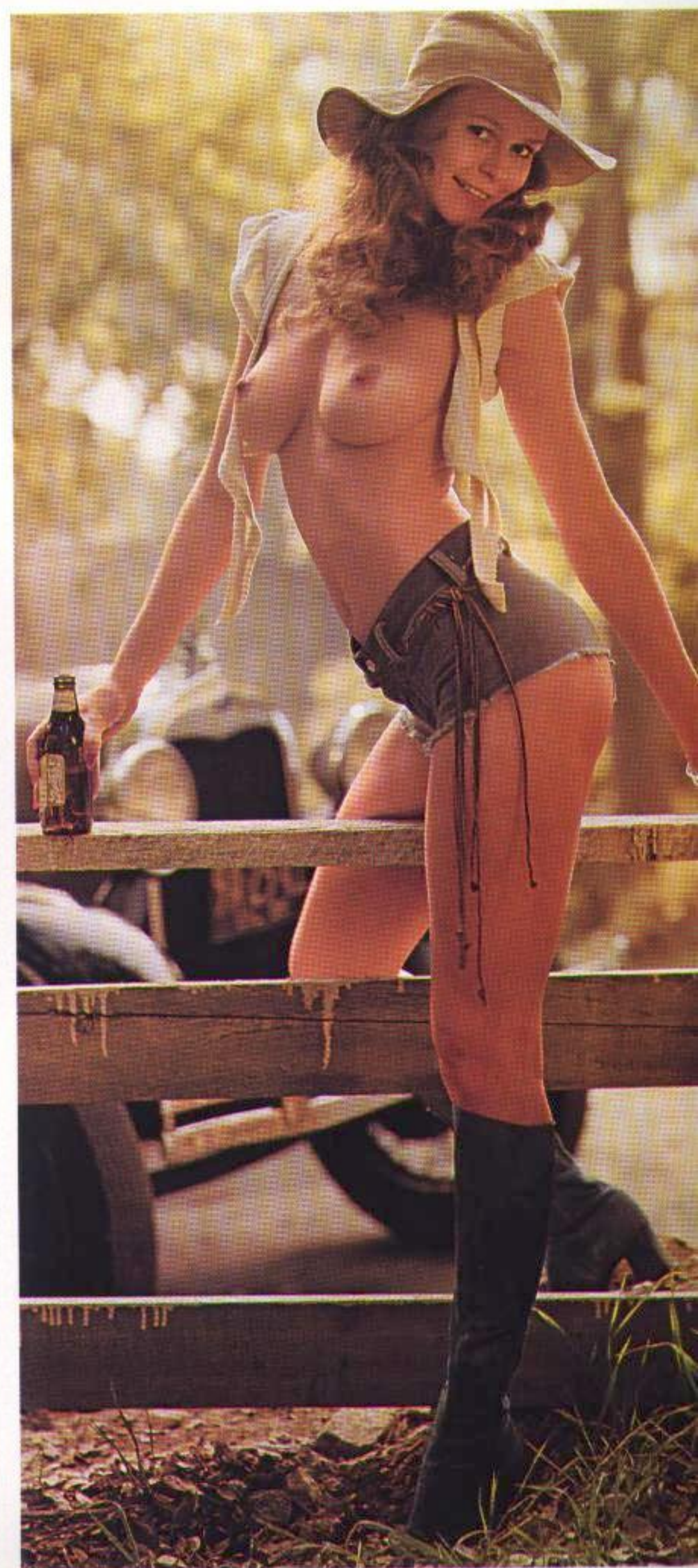
Miss October 1972 *Sharon Johansen*

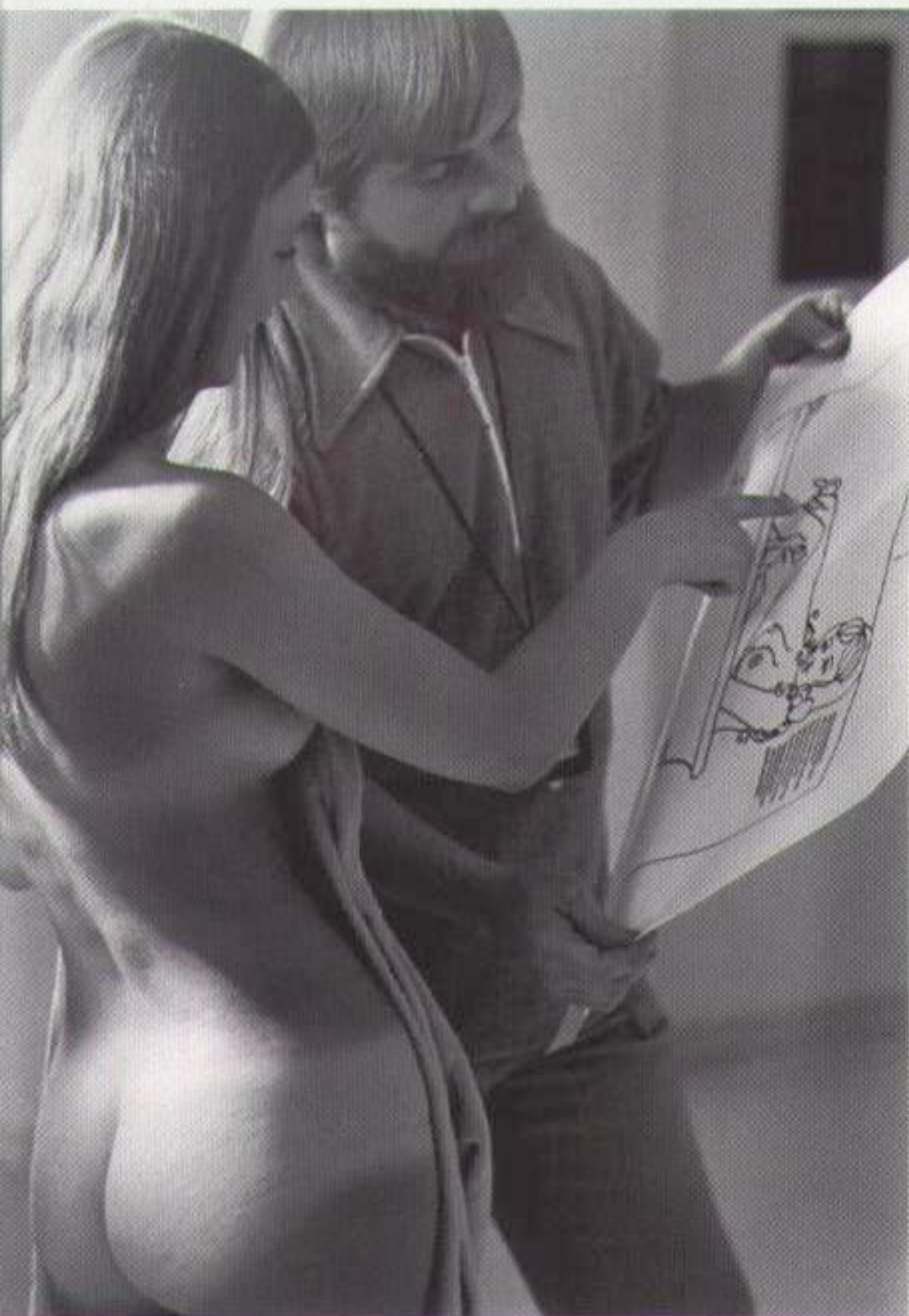
"I don't drink, I don't smoke, I've never been involved in drugs, I go to the gym every day—and Hef, every time he sees me, says I look better now than when I was a Playmate" (above). Sharon is currently known as the Hugo Girl for her work on behalf of Giorgio's new men's fragrance. Formerly a trainer for Dog, Hugh Hefner's English sheepdog (below left), Sharon worked with Beau Bridges on the film *Your Three Minutes Are Up* (bottom left), posed for 1979's *Playmates Forever!* feature (below right) and continues to appear on TV. She's also the mother of 13-year-old twins, son Kjai and daughter Kirsten—"nice Scandinavian names," she points out—and keeps in touch with many Playmate pals, including Lisa Baker, who first encouraged her to pose for PLAYBOY, and Kimberley Hefner, with whom she shares a passion for animal rescue efforts.



Miss September 1972 *Susan Miller*

"It was a very exciting time," says Susan Miller (right) of the three years she spent "mated, not married" to British writer and director Patrick Garland. There were five homes on three continents, with house guests including Rex Harrison, Claire Bloom and Paul Scofield. Citing irreconcilable differences, Susan returned to America and "had some success in television—*Lou Grant*, *Starsky & Hutch*, *The Love Boat*." Today Susan is a massage therapist, owner with her boyfriend of a 50-foot sailboat and, she says, looks "better than I have in years."





Miss November 1972 *Lenna Sjööblom*

She went back home to Sweden, married, had a family—and is enjoying a surprising new role in mass communications. Lenna's face—sometimes only the right eye—from her centerfold shot is used as a standard for image compression on the World Wide Web. Above, a good deal more of Lenna from her Playmate pictorial; above left, photographer Bill Arsenault shows her a sketch for a proposed promotion shooting.



Miss December 1972 *Mercy Rooney*

Mercy (left), a New Jersey native and Los Angeles Playboy Bunny, was a talented designer whose clients included Zsa Zsa Gabor, the Dean Martin family, the rock group Chicago and rodeo cowboys in search of custom leatherwork. While shooting her Playmate layout in Chicago, Mercy was on hand for Liv Lindeland's Playmate of the Year party (where she danced with photog Richard Fegley, above) and for the unforgettable visit of the Rolling Stones to Hefner's Chicago Mansion.



Miss January 1973 *Miki Garcia*

She was Director of Playmate Promotions from 1976 to 1982 and posed for *Playmates Forever!* in 1979 (inset). Although she had described PLAYBOY as "a wonderful influence on my life," she testified against the magazine before the 1985 Meese Commission hearings—in an effort, Hefner sadly concluded, to hype her manuscript of an exposé on PLAYBOY and its Playmates. In the end, no publisher showed interest in her book. Today Miki lives quietly in California's Antelope Valley.



Miss March 1973

Bonnie Large

If Playmates had theme songs, Bonnie's would be *There'll Be Some Changes Made*. She is still the entertainer she was as a Playmate (left), maintaining a longtime membership in the Screen Actors Guild. But Bonnie is also a neurotherapist, biofeedback therapist and, since 1979, has been a practicing clinical hypnotherapist in the Los Angeles area. Her latest achievement: publication of a book of erotic poetry. "PLAYBOY offered me the opportunity to go from a shy girl to traveling the world and dining with royalty, governors and rock stars—even being proposed to by a count," Bonnie says today. "And it sure is a great incentive to keeping your body in shape." The evidence appears below.

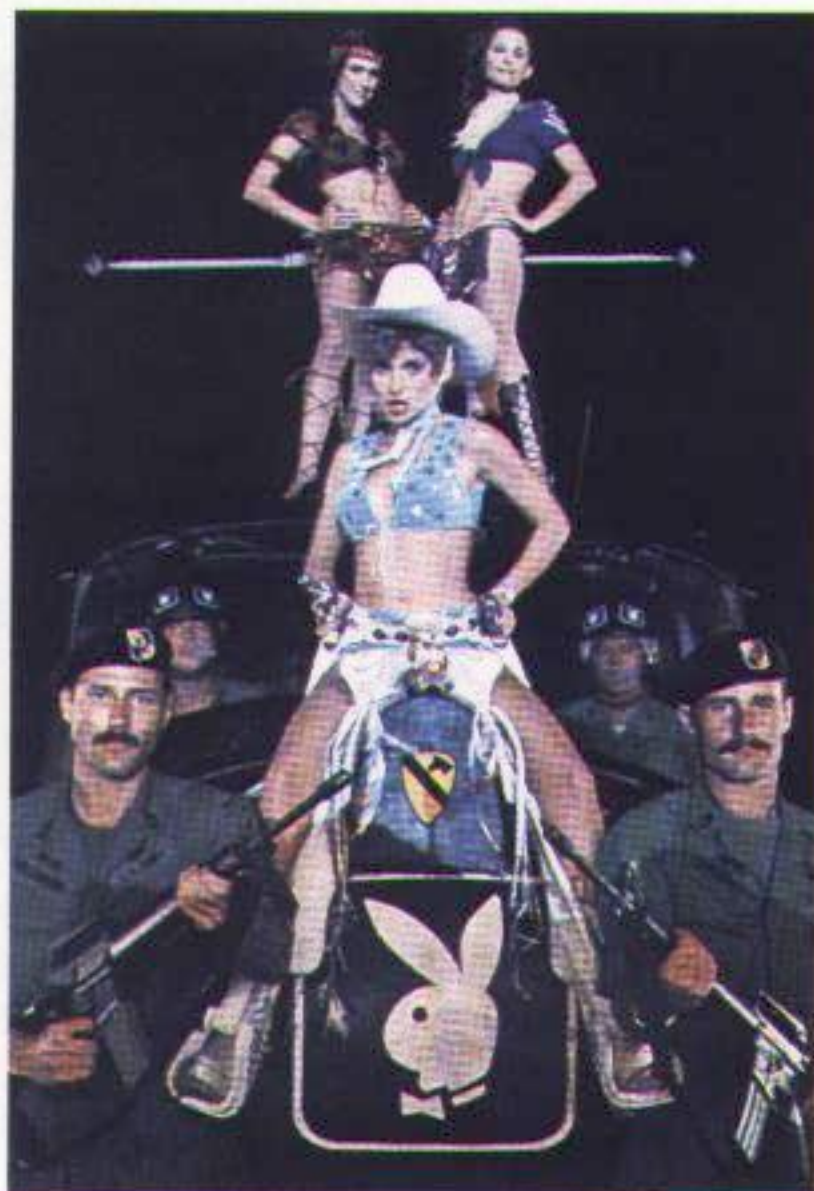


Miss February 1973

Cyndi Wood

1974 Playmate of the Year

For her centerfold (bottom left), she wore a costume from a Ginger Rogers–Fred Astaire movie, and no costume at all in her *Playmate Review* pose (right). The year's top Playmate appeared on five magazine covers—January 1974's 20th Anniversary Issue being a tripartite foldout. In the film *Apocalypse Now* (below), Cyndi portrayed a Playmate visiting Vietnam, a role very loosely based on Jo Collins' 1966 adventure. Three years ago Cyndi married a recording engineer (top left); "I waited a long time because I wanted to make absolutely sure I was ready, and I really wasn't ready until I was 42. I have a wonderful husband, we have a great relationship and I'm very happy." Today Cyndi (at keyboard, left) still writes, sings and plays original music—"I call it power pop"—but is focusing on college-level psychology courses, hoping eventually to get a Ph.D. and open a center for accelerated learning. "I'm working a couple of days a week in a school for emotionally disturbed children. Right now I'm developing a show for their annual charity benefit. It involves adapting the script from a book, producing, directing, writing the music and, with my husband, laying in the sound effects. The kids will perform, make the costumes and work on the sets. It's a real challenge."



PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR

on

CYNDI WOOD

Cyndi came by the studio on a Wednesday afternoon for test shots, and by Friday morning at five o'clock we were shooting the picture of her standing in the doorway at Playboy Mansion West. I also did some shots of her there with a parakeet on her shoulder, and when I finished the roll I laid the film down at the edge of the swimming pool. An ostrich came by and swallowed the film.





Miss April 1973

Julie Woodson

A former flight attendant, actress and sought-after Manhattan mannequin, Julie (right) turned down a role in the movie *Super Fly* when she figured an unexpected nude scene wasn't worth the money she was being offered.

After years as a successful model, she headed back home to Kansas and a career in the construction business.



Miss May 1973

Anulka Dziubinska

A world traveler, she admitted to an interest in the theater, and it paid off for Anulka (left) in roles in such films as *Lisztomania* with Roger Daltrey. In London, she attended a car rally with actor Derek Branch (below).



PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR on ANULKA DZIUBINSKA

I was in Germany doing *The Girls of Munich* (August 1972), and I walked into a place where they had pinball machines. I saw two nice blondes from the back, and I was curious to see how they looked from the front. I went around, and one was a man. The woman was Anulka. At first she said she didn't want to do nudes, so I posed her with clothes on in front of the Rathaus. Then I said, "Why not test for Playmate?" and she agreed. Chicago accepted her right away.

Miss June 1973 Ruthy Ross

The previous year, Ruthy (above right) had triumphed over contestants from 20 other Playboy hutsches throughout the world to become Bunny of the Year 1972. As the titleholder, she found herself in demand for promotional appearances. At a Sugar Ray Robinson Youth Foundation benefit at Bob Hope's home, she joined Playmates of the Year Liv Lindeland and Lisa Baker for a squeeze with Jim Nabors (above center). At a Los Angeles Tennis Club tournament for the Spastic Children's Foundation, she met Charlton Heston (above left).

Miss July 1973

Martha Smith

"Do you know what's funny? To this day, and here we are twenty-some years later, I can be standing at a bar and a guy will come up to me and say, 'Farmington, Michigan, *PLAYBOY*, July 1973' and start telling me everything I've ever been in. The retention is amazing," Martha (on her centerfold, right, and today, insert) laughs. After her role in *National Lampoon's Animal House* (below), she did a lot of TV: four years on *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*, the soap opera *Days of Our Lives* and "every game show ever created



by man." During a lengthy strike, she designed a line of sexy greeting cards, then spent some time in Europe "engaged to a Frenchman, but that didn't pan out." Returning to Hollywood during the recession, she found her showbiz connections—"a funny mix of Saudi princes and rock and rollers"—helpful in the estates division of a realty firm. "I'm still doing that, but I'm also working on a screenplay—a social-political drama—with my current beau, who is brilliant. I haven't wanted to murder him yet, and that's a really good sign."





Miss August 1973 *Phyllis Coleman*

For many years, she had studied ballet, but Phyllis (above) found dance taking a backseat to auto racing when she fell for a professional driver and took over the publicity chores for his team. From there, she went on to help other people find jobs under the aegis of the California Department of Employment.



Miss October 1973 *Valerie Lane*

Female barbers were a rarity when Valerie (above) came to the attention of the Figges—and *PLAYBOY*. After 23 years, she's still in the business as the owner, with her husband, of a full-service salon for men and women in Orange County (inset). "The year 1973 was a good one for many reasons," she recalls. "I married Dan Simmons, with whom I worked at the time—he's in my layout—and he adopted my son from a previous marriage. Dan has just been a godsend in my life."

Miss September 1973 *Geri Glass*

"I live a low-key, boring life," says Geri (left), who moved away from California after being harassed by a stalker. "I'd thought of becoming an attorney, but lacking the money or motivation to go through law school, I decided to be a para-legal instead. In my spare time, I also write short stories and raise German shepherds."



Miss November 1973

Monica Tidwell

Chicago-based PLAYBOY staffers kept running into Monica (below) all over town: selling balloons on a street corner, hawking ice cream from a tricycle, driving a pedicab through Lincoln Park. "I get these weird jobs," she explained, "because I have a passion for people. For one thing, a good writer"—which she declared she wanted to be—"has to get to know people inside out." Editors labeled Monica *Ubiquitous Miss*.



PHOTOGRAPHER
RICHARD FEGLEY *on*
CHRISTINE MADDOX

Christine was one of the girls I thought was the nicest. She was going to give her entire Playmate fee—it was \$5000 then—to her parents for a down payment on a house. Her pictorial was scheduled for December but we shot it in July, so we went up to her folks' place and set up a whole turkey dinner, put up a tree and everything to make it look like Christmas.



Miss December 1973 *Christine Maddox*

Christine (above) grew up in the Northern California town of Tracy, where family—parents and five siblings—made up a good part of the population. After working in an electronics factory there, "putting little silver things on top of little plastic things"—she migrated to the Los Angeles area and found herself in demand as a model. A dozen years ago Christine and her husband left the big city for another small California town, where keeping up with her three small children takes up most of her time.

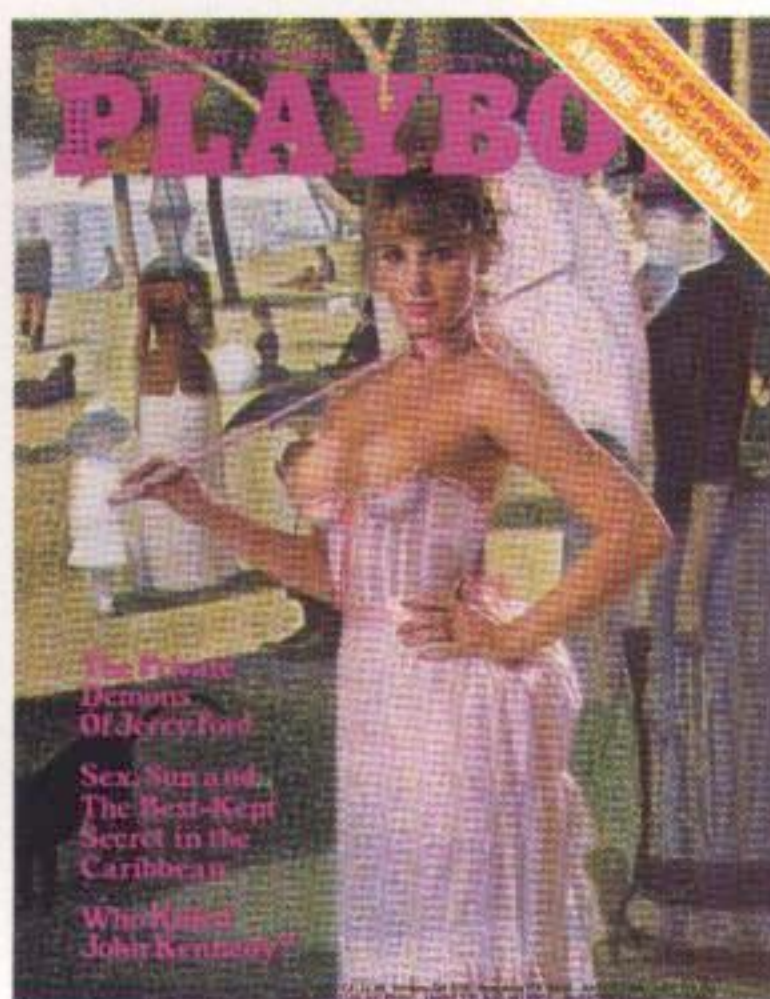


Miss January 1974

Nancy Cameron

20th Anniversary Playmate

Nancy felt sorry for Staff Photographer Dwight Hooker when he shot her in PLAYBOY's only front-and-back representation of a centerfold (left). "Poor Dwight must have lost ten pounds running from one camera to the other," she said, laughing. A gymnast and former dental assistant from a small town in Pennsylvania, she was working for her promoter boyfriend in Pittsburgh when her Playmate story came out. They broke up, she moved to California and eventually relocated to New York, where she married, had a daughter and divorced. In 1976 Nancy impersonated one of the models in Georges Seurat's pointillistic painting, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Ile de la Grande Jatte*, for a PLAYBOY cover (below left).



PHOTOGRAPHER

DWIGHT HOOKER on

NANCY CAMERON

Nancy's grandmother was from somewhere in Eastern Europe, and Nancy was going to change her name in the magazine to avoid embarrassing her. But when she heard about it, Grandma said, "I don't want you to change your name! You got those tits from me. How about some pictures with me?" Nancy told me that story. She loved it.



Miss February 1974

Francine Parks

Francine (right) worked at a disco and a travel agency, attended classes at Santa Monica College, modeled and studied acting with drama coach Eric Morris. "I water-ski, sail and play a little tennis, too," she reported. Within a year, she had a job interviewing and writing news releases for one of Los Angeles' top publicity firms.



Miss March 1974

Pamela Zinszer

A decade after her Playmate pictorial (left), Pamela posed for *Playmates Forever! Part Two* (far right). In the interim, she had modeled, done sales and promotion and been named "Editor's Choice" by the truckers' magazine *Owner Operator* (near right). Pam is still in California, where she's married and the proud mother of a baby boy. "If I had known it was this wonderful, I probably would have had kids a long time ago!" she exclaimed. Next to family, she loves painting. "My big dream is to have a gallery opening one of these days."



Miss April 1974

Marlene Morrow

Presenting a mirror image of herself in January 1975's *Playmate Review* (left), Marlene might be forgiven for wanting to duplicate herself. After leaving London, where she had been modeling for two years, she relocated in Los Angeles and kept up a busy calendar of promotional assignments for PLAYBOY.



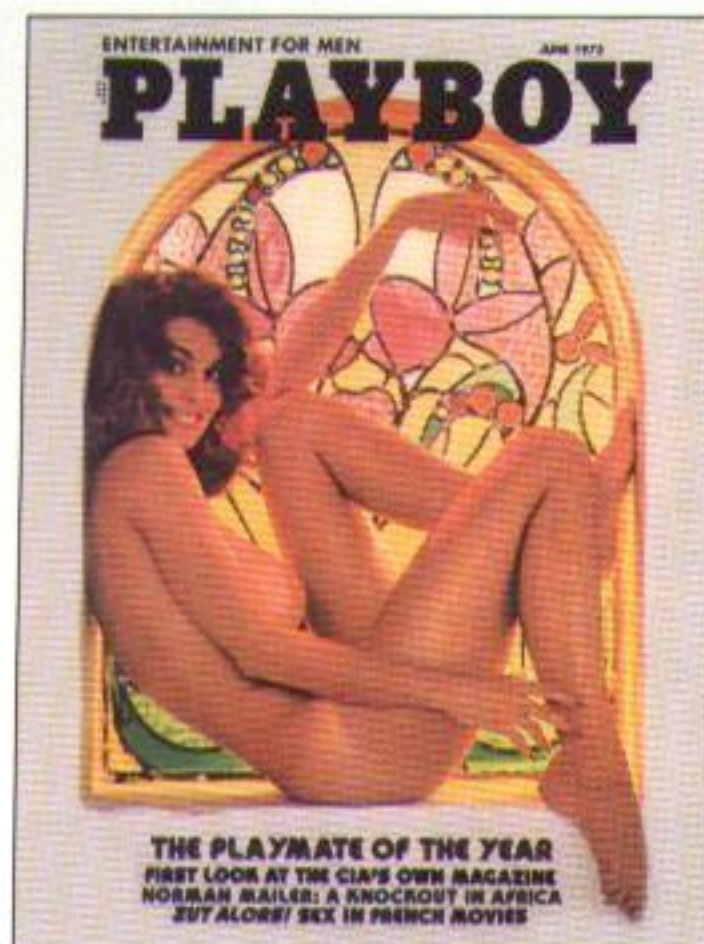


Miss May 1974

Marilyn Lange

1975 Playmate of the Year

Marilyn's centerfold pose (far left) gave her a leg up on the competition for PMOY, which she won. The playful way she twisted a tuft of pubic hair in her June 1975 pictorial (see pages 144-45) says a great deal about the downfall of old taboos that marked the decade. At the time she had something to say about porno films, then enjoying new



popularity: "I kind of like the mystique that sex used to have. It's nice when there's a little room left for the imagination to work. I liked *Behind the Green Door*, but I haven't felt the urge to see another one." More of a sports fan, Marilyn was named 1976's fourth-round draft choice by the North American Soccer League's Chicago Sting. "We liked what we saw," explained general manager Jim Walker.



Miss June 1974

Sandy Johnson

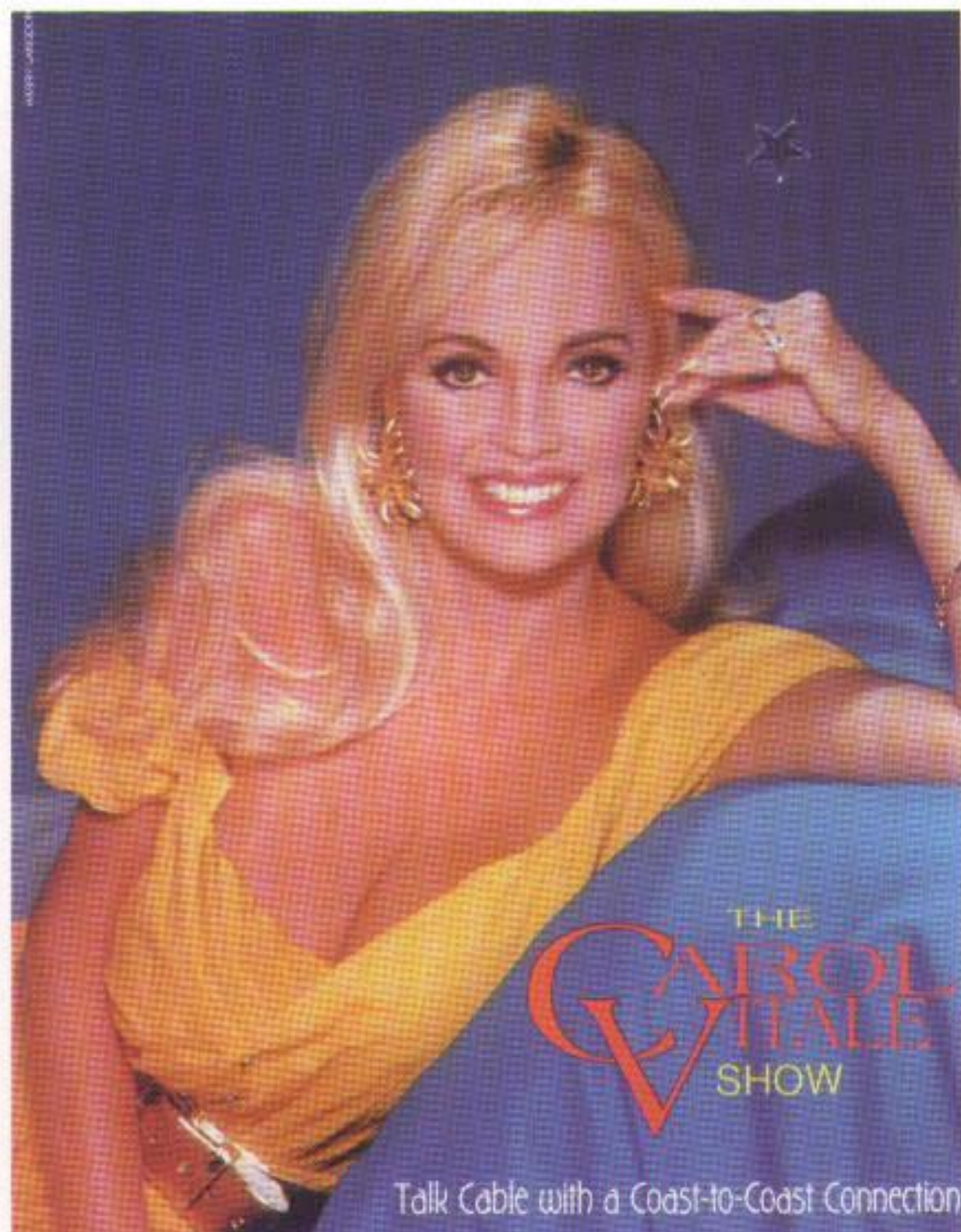
To keep up with her ever-increasing schedule of activities, Sandy (above) had just installed one of those "newfangled gadgets"—an answering machine. One of the messages she later received: an offer of a role in the 1979 movie *H.O.T.S.*, in which she was featured with Playmate pals Pamela Jean Bryant and Susan Kiger.



Miss July 1974

Carol Vitale

Readers were introduced to Carol in August 1970, when she made the first of three consecutive appearances in the magazine's *Bunnies Of* pictorials. First a cottontail at the Miami Playboy Club, she later worked at the Playboy Plaza hotel in Miami Beach. Non-Club keyholders most likely remember her from her August 1972 cover, in which she clung to a red Rabbit-shaped life preserver. Carol hasn't been idle since her centerfold (left). These days she hosts her own syndicated weekly television production, *The Carol Vitale Show* (below), aired in select markets around the country. Among her guests have been fellow talk-show hosts Geraldo Rivera and Jenny Jones, as well as a raft of movie and TV personalities. Carol (bottom) is also marketing *Daring Dainties*, a line of lacy lingerie—for the hands. "It's the first new lingerie category in more than 50 years," she claims. Her success has allowed her to set up a fellowship for AIDS research, raise funds for the homeless and support medical programs of the City of Hope, for which she was named Woman of the Year in Florida in 1995.



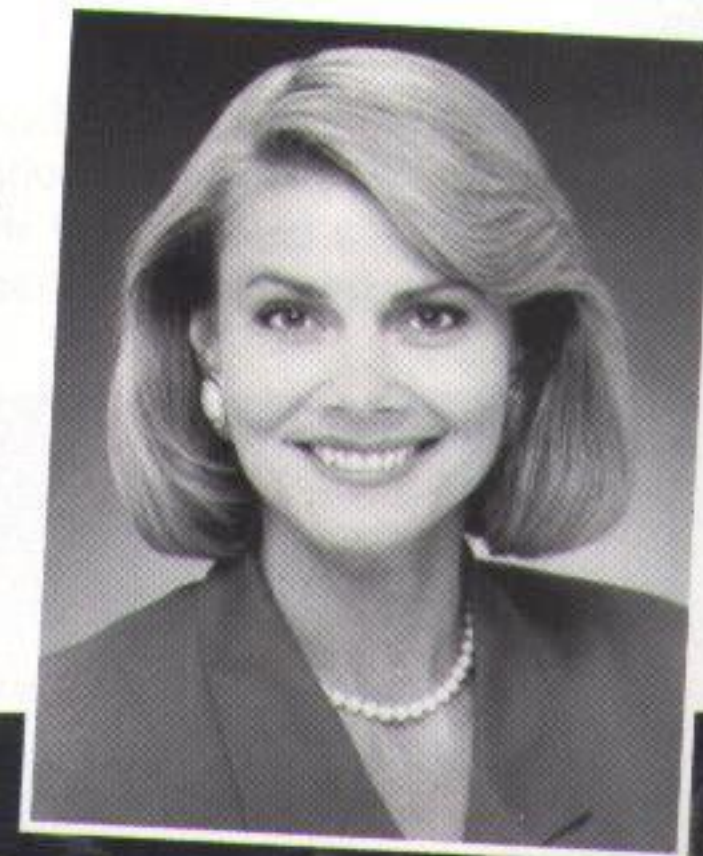


Miss August 1974 *Jean Manson*

In France, where she has lived since the mid-Seventies, Jean is a man's name. So for the past 20 years, Miss August (above) has been known—well known—as Jeane. Since her 1976 singing debut at MIDEM, the international music fest in Cannes (where she was double-billed with Tony Bennett), she has been a popular singer as well as actress, with records selling some 20 million copies worldwide. (That's her 1995 CD at top left.) In 1991 she played the sultry lead in 260 episodes of *Riviera*, described by *Time* as "Europe's answer to *Dallas*." This year, fans will be able to hear her in *Country Girl: Jeane Manson*, the first country-and-western album ever recorded by a female singer in French. One cut, *Oh, Susanna*, features her daughters, aged eight and 18.

Miss September 1974 *Kristine Hanson*

"Something new at my age: I got married for the first time a couple of years ago," says Kristine (with husband Jim, near right, and in a current portrait, far right). "I figured if I did this late enough in life, maybe we'd have a marriage to last a lifetime like you're supposed to. For the past 20 years, I felt as if I was always sort of married to my job." Kristine's career had been demanding; she has worked as a television anchor, weatherperson and sportscaster in California markets from San Francisco to Sacramento and Santa Rosa. Since marrying Jim, a member of a California winemaking family, and moving to a working ranch 90 miles from the nearest TV station, Kristine is no longer on camera nightly. "I'm becoming sort of a substitute weatherperson, filling in when someone is ill or on vacation. Instead of getting someone new to the business, the station gets a 20-year veteran who has a degree in meteorology and can just walk in carrying her own computers. It's a perfect complement to life on the ranch." Still occasionally confronted by fans asking her to autograph her centerfold (right), Kristine cites "many fond memories of *PLAYBOY*."



Miss October 1974

Ester Cordet

She was a Pacific Southwest Airlines stewardess when she posed for her centerfold (near right), provoking the wrath of feminist flight attendants. "Think of all the creeps who are going to be flying PSA," sputtered one trainee. A number of

passengers did ask her for autographs, Ester admitted later. And she got a husband out of her magazine experience. At a Playboy Mansion West party, she met author Robert (Looking Out for #1) Ringer (with Ester, left); they married in 1977.



PHOTOGRAPHER

RICHARD FEGLEY on **ESTER CORDET**

I was just getting up my nerve about shooting Playmates when I met Ester on a PSA flight. Passengers were always hitting on the girls, so I had a hard time persuading her I was legit. We shot the centerfold in Chicago, and I think it's the only one that didn't have eye contact. I thought I was a real arty photographer and I was tired of seeing all those Playmates staring into the camera, even though I knew that's what Hef wanted.

Miss December 1974 *Janice Raymond*

A highlight of Janice's career as a Jet Bunny was 1975's Bunny Babylift, in which she and other PLAYBOY employees cared for 141 Vietnamese orphans on a flight from San Francisco to Denver and New York aboard the DC-9 *Big Bunny* (right). When her centerfold appeared (below), Janice averred that she was still looking for Mr. Right; he showed up in the person of a PLAYBOY exec. They're now married and living in Texas.



Miss November 1974

Bebe Buell

Everybody wants to read Bebe's life story. "The last advance I was offered was extremely difficult to turn down, because it was in the six figures," she says. "But you know what? I feel that in many ways I'm entering into only chapter three of my life." Bebe (in 1974, right, and 1985's *Girls of Rock and Roll*, center far right), a singer who founded the band the B-Sides, isn't interested in doing a tell-all tome. "I find books written by people about the liaisons in their lives to be sort of cheap shots." Not that there weren't liaisons: Musicians Todd Rundgren, Steven Tyler, Stiv Bators, Elvis Costello, Rod Stewart and Jimmy Page come to mind. In 1992 Bebe married for the first time. She describes her husband, Coyote Shivers—also a rocker—as her soulmate. Bebe laughs at the description once hung on her by *New York* magazine: "The filet mignon of rock." As a vegetarian, she observes, "I find that kind of funny. What am I now, the veggieburger of rock?" Bebe is now a manager whose clients include Debbie Harry and two family members, Shivers and the movies' hottest ingenue, Liv Tyler—Bebe's daughter with Aerosmith's Steven Tyler. Liv (with Mom, top right) can be seen in Bernardo Bertolucci's *Stealing Beauty* and Tom Hanks' *That Thing You Do*. Liv grew up thinking she was the daughter of Todd Rundgren, with whom her mother lived for five years and whom Bebe still views as "a wonderful, generous man."





Miss January 1975 *Lynnnda Kimball*

This time, the girl next door wasn't. She was right there in PLAYBOY's West Coast photo studio, working as a part-time stylist. Lynnnda (above) posed on a couch shaped like giant lips for July 1974's *Heady Stuff*, then got ogled by comic characters on the following month's cover. She and evangelist turned actor Marjoe Gortner were an item for some time after meeting at 1975's New Year's Eve party at Playboy Mansion West.

Miss February 1975 *Laura Misch*

"I knew when I was six years old what I wanted to be when I grew up," says Laura (below and, inset, today). A Playmate? No. "An author." And

Laura Misch Watt has just sold her first novel, *Carry Me Back*, a story about a banjo player, will be published by St. Martin's Press in 1997.

Laura fulfilled her ambition by a roundabout route, leaving her native Oklahoma for New Orleans to become a Playboy Bunny. Tiring of the Big Easy, she moved to Miami. There, at the media hangout where she tended bar, she made contacts that led to a position at the *Miami Herald*. (She also landed on the pages of *Cosmopolitan* with a 1980 piece on her centerfold



experience.) After six years on the *Herald*, Laura moved to Denver and a position at the *Rocky Mountain News*. Three years ago, she married a fellow staffer, who now works for the rival *Denver Post*. After getting the good news about her novel, Laura quit her job to write fiction full time.

She still has fun with her PLAYBOY past: "Every couple of years I'll be at a party and somebody will come up to me and say 'I heard something about you.' And I always just reply, 'It's true!'"





Miss March 1975

*Ingeborg
Sorensen*

"We have always known that American men have a weakness for Norwegian beauty," observed the newspaper *Romsdalposten*, hailing the arrival of Ingeborg (above) in PLAYBOY's centerfold. The blonde beauty from Oslo had won the titles of Miss Norway and Miss Europe and was runner-up in the 1972 Miss World contest before moving to Hollywood. There, one of her first assignments cast her opposite Joe Namath in a Noxzema commercial.

Miss April 1975

*Victoria
Cunningham*

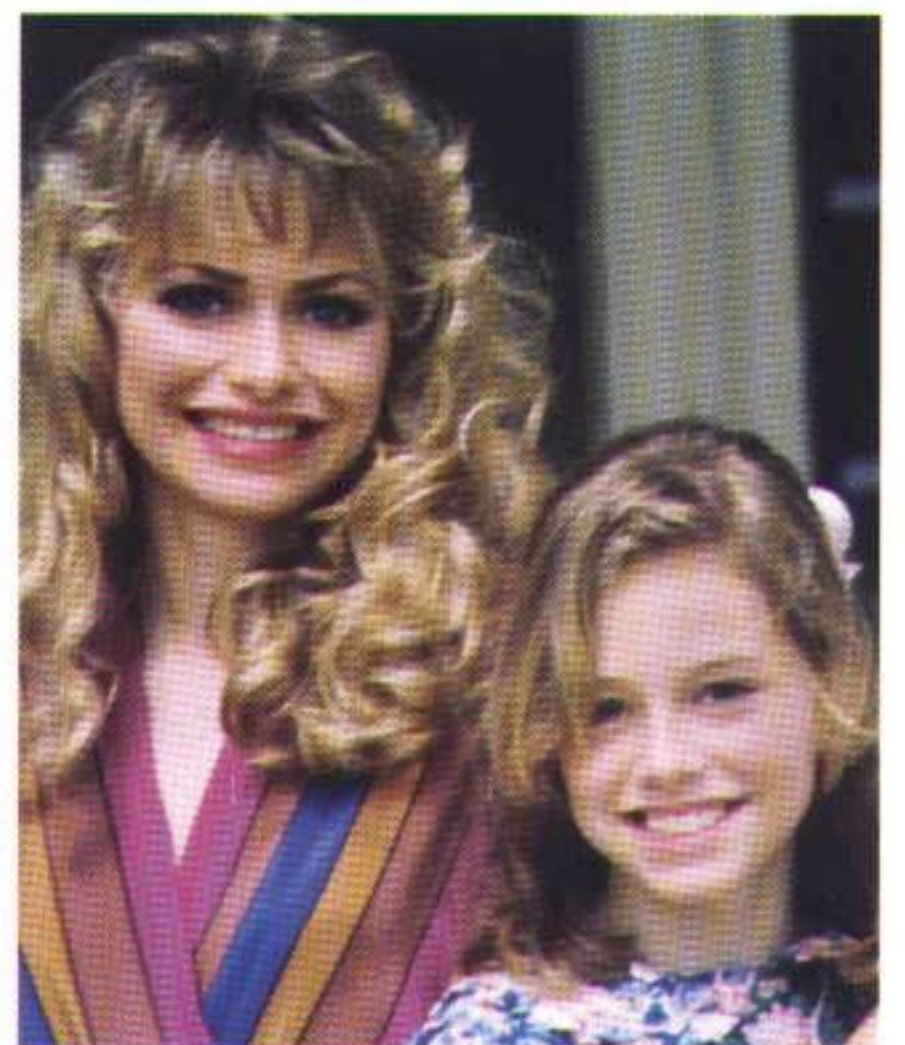
A cottontail in Los Angeles, where she rode with grand marshal Hugh Hefner in the 1975 Chinese New Year's parade opening the Year of the Rabbit, Victoria (left) also joined the ranks of Jet Bunnies aboard the company DC-9. The following year, she starred in *Fire Belle*, a torrid pictorial about her fantasy of becoming a firefighter. She moved to Chicago, where the *Sun-Times* hailed her as one of the "ten sexiest Chicagoans," then to Florida and was last sighted in Italy. She's the mother of two grown sons.

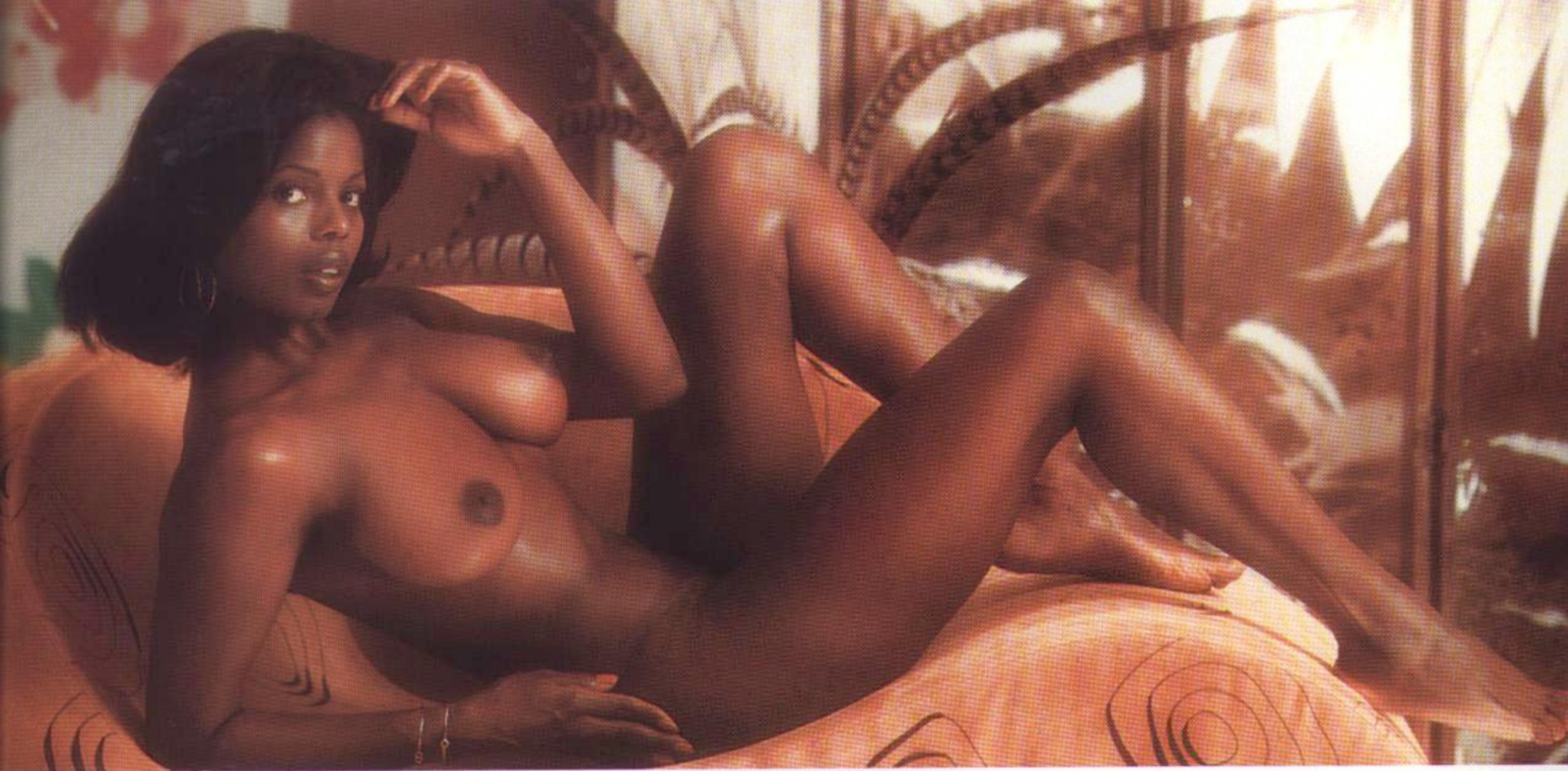


Miss May 1975

Bridgett Rollins

"People have this idea that Playmates are floating on a cloud somewhere, but we live in reality just like anybody else," says Bridgett (in her centerfold, left, and with her sister Yvonne, below) from her home in Texas. Bridgett's reality: running a printing-supply business with her husband, marriage and parenthood. She's a home room mother to two sons, five and nine, and a daughter, 13 (with Mom, bottom). "I'm going to let her model when she gets out of school. She's very much like her mommy."





Miss June 1975 *Azizi Johari*

"I've done pretty much everything I wanted to do in this life except have kids and go to Spain," reports Azizi (in her centerfold, above, and today, inset) from her hometown of Seattle, to which she has returned after chucking the bright lights of Los Angeles (below, hanging out with footballer Hollywood Henderson at Playboy Mansion West). "I cannot believe how many people in this town know who I am on the basis of something I did in 1975," she exclaims. "I was one of such an elite group of women. The way PLAYBOY treats you is so special. I don't allow anybody to put that organization down." Azizi has studied therapeutic massage—she's considering opening a spa—but showbiz still has its place in her heart. "I've been working with a little theater group and with the Black Film Festival here," she says. "And I'm still husband-hunting. I know he's out there, but unless he has his act together, he'd better not apply."



Miss July 1975 *Lynn Schiller*

Lynn (left), who was also the cover girl of this issue, was an enthusiast of several sports, including swimming, surfing, riding, tennis and baseball. She first appeared wearing rollerskates and wielding a hose in PLAYBOY's May 1975 T-shirt pictorial. A budding actress and songwriter, she was once rocker Glenn Frey's love interest.



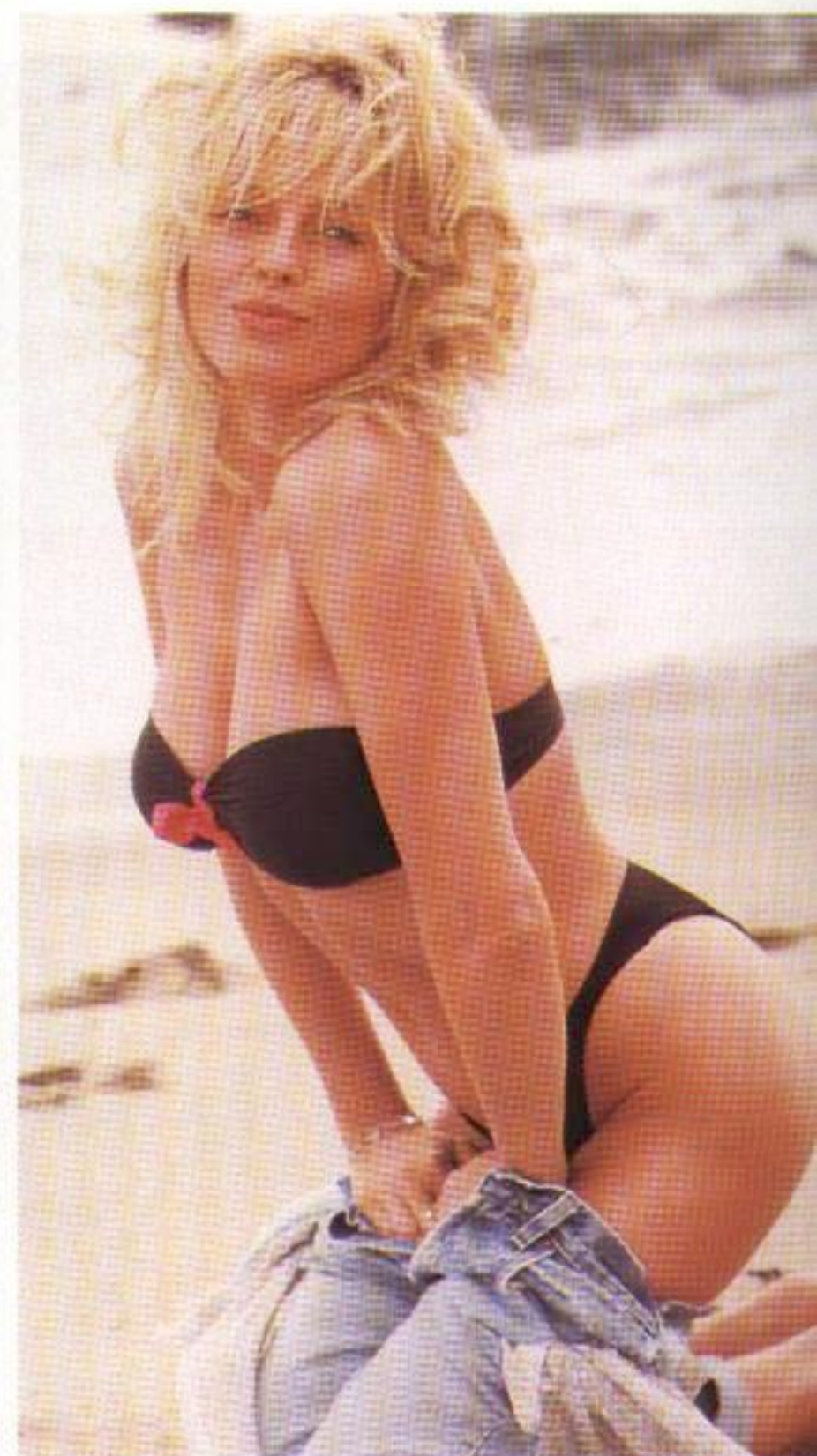


Miss August 1975

Lillian Müller

1976 Playmate of the Year

"I think there's something to the saying that life begins at 40, at least for me," says Lillian (below). "At 39, I had my daughter, which was the single greatest experience of my life, and now I've written a book, *Feel Great, Be Beautiful Over 40*. I think 70 may be the peak of life." Yet another Norwegian-born Playmate—one of two in 1975—Lillian now lives in Southern California with her daughter, her dog and her fiancé, co-author John Coleman (overleaf), a lawyer and actor. Her paths in life have included modeling, movies and relationships with the rich and famous, most



Feel Great, Be Beautiful Over 40

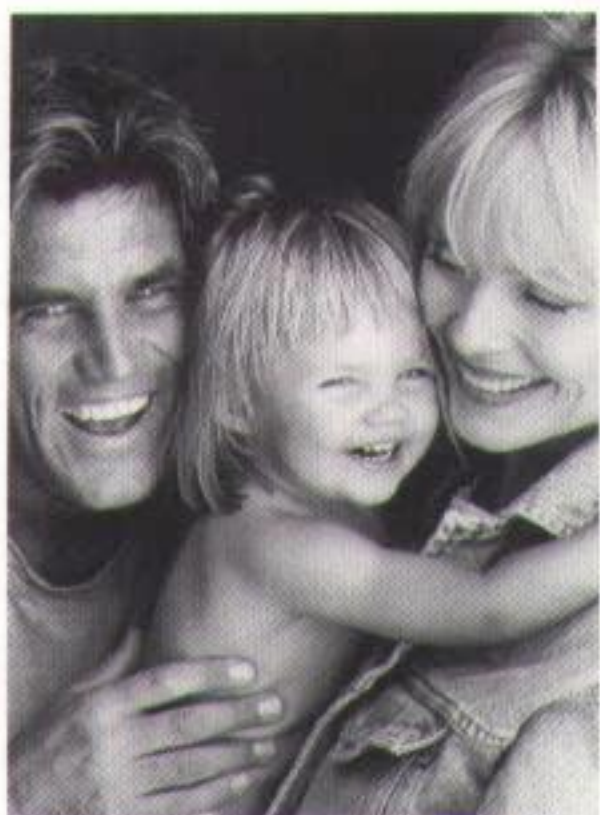
INSIDE TIPS ON HOW TO LOOK BETTER,
BE HEALTHIER AND SLOW THE AGING PROCESS



By Lillian Müller and John Coleman
with
Jill Alison Gench

prominently Hugh M. Hefner. "Without Hef, I wouldn't even be here," she says. "He got me my green card." Lillian's Playmate and PMOY pictorials attracted the attention of European film directors, and she made a number of films there and in the U.S. (among them *Casanova and Company*, bottom center, and *The Devil and Max Devlin*, with Bill Cosby, bottom right). Still, although she'd dreamed of becoming a serious actress like her country woman

Liv Ullmann, she kept getting cast as the blonde bombshell. Laughing, she notes: "Take away the hair and the breasts from the blonde bombshell and what have you got? A smart brunette." Lillian is proud of her many PLAYBOY pictorials, including *Reincarnation* (previous pages), a 1986 interpretation of the art of Olivia de Berardinis, and *Playmates Revisited* (April 1996, below). She and Hefner have remained close friends throughout the years.





Miss September 1975 *Mesina Miller*

Modeling, selling real estate and keeping the books at her stepfather's flying school kept Mesina (above) busy—and in enough of the long green to finance a supply of pet food for her home menagerie of dogs, cats and a once-scraggly parakeet rescued from a swap meet. Nearly a decade later, then working for a radio station in Los Angeles, Mesina posed for *Playmates Forever! Part Two* (inset).



PHOTOGRAPHER

DWIGHT HOOKER on JILL DE VRIES

I did a lot of work with Jill after her centerfold. We did a whole series of *Christina's Quest* books for Playboy Press, and she was the cover model. The art director and Jill and I would sit down and talk about where we'd like to go for a shooting. And we'd say Monaco or someplace, and we'd call up the guy who was writing the books and tell him to have Christina have sex in Monaco or wherever, and he would build the story around it.



Miss October 1975 *Jill De Vries*

The first Playmate to autograph her centerfold in the magazine, Jill (above) lived in a farmhouse surrounded by 14 acres of hay near Bloomington, Illinois—a town that went wild over her appearance in the magazine. She had studied elementary education but wound up having more fun with modeling assignments such as PLAYBOY's February 1976 cover.



Miss November 1975

Janet Lupo

"I'd do it all over again if I could," says Janet (left) of her Playmate experience. She did do it again, as a matter of fact, for *Playmates Forever! Part Two* (April 1984, below). One part of that adventure, however, she'd rather not repeat. "I was looking at the monkeys at Playboy Mansion West when one of them grabbed me by the hair, yanked it and banged my head against a cage." Janet's hair is still long, "highlighted all different shades." Highlighting, as it happens, is now her business. She has been attending hairdressing school in New Jersey, where she lives with her nine-year-old son.



Miss December 1975

Nancie Li Brandi

"These pictures were a revelation," said Nancie of her Playmate shooting (above).

"I still think of myself as the shy, skinny kid I used to be at 16." An admitted night person, Nancie seemed perfectly suited for her job as a blackjack dealer in a Nevada casino, but the lure of Los Angeles soon drew her away.

Miss January 1976 *Daina House*

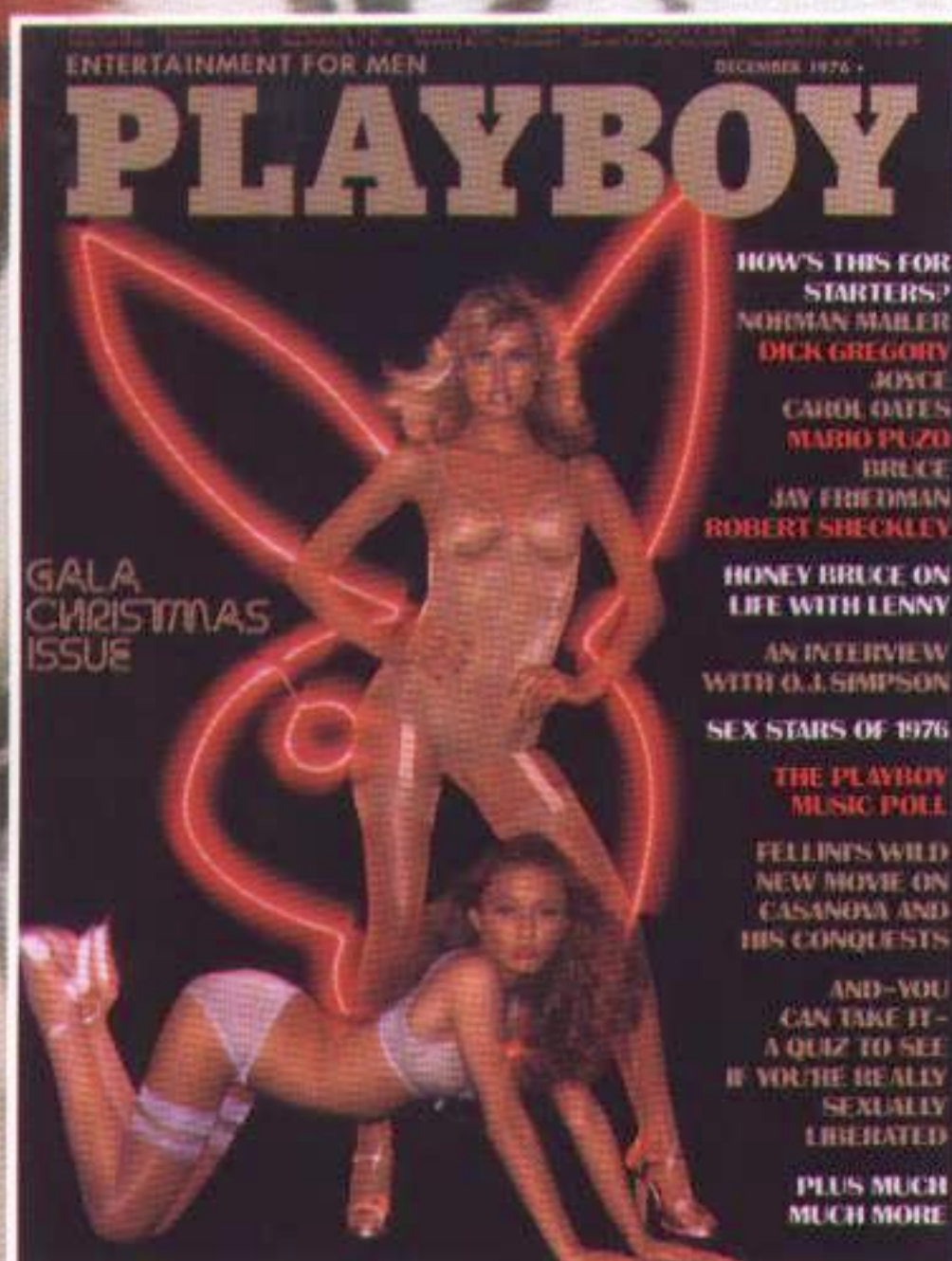
After appearing in seven movies and on dozens of TV series, Daina (below) has changed the direction of her life. "I'm a Sunday school teacher, I lead worship at my church and I've written and am recording a gospel single called *Come to Jesus*." She also holds down a full-time job with an insurance company, has been coaching her ten-year-old son's baseball team and says, "I'm blessed. I had a wonderful career and I owe a lot of it to PLAYBOY. But I think God gives us talent for a reason, and God is using me now."



Miss February 1976 *Laura Lyons*

Last year one of Laura's daughters found a copy of PLAYBOY in her father's studio and asked: "Mommy, tell me the truth. Were you ever in PLAYBOY?" "Well, what would you think if I was?" "I think it would be really cool." Laura (right and in December 1977's *Playboy's Playmate House Party*, inset) chuckled at the memory. "So I'm out of the closet and actually quite proud of it now." Some of the achievements in which she takes pride: her stint as a Jet Bunny and the time she represented the Chicago Playboy Club as Bunny of the Year. Married "to a wonderful man" and the mother of "three fantastic children," she lives in California.





Miss March 1976

Ann Pennington

The first Playmate to follow a sibling to the centerfold, Ann (above) is the sister of Miss May 1971, Janice Pennington (with her, right). In 1980 she married singer-actor Shaun (*The Hardy Boys Mysteries*) Cassidy (far right) and had a son and daughter. Divorced five years, they're still "very good friends." Ann still appears on TV (*Love and War*) and in commercials (Michelob) and has a partnership with a girlfriend in an upscale women's clothing business.

Back in 1976 her Playmate story described an accident Ann had at her boyfriend's ski school. Fast forward to 1996. She's now engaged to that boyfriend, noted skier Peter Brinkman. "Twenty years later," she says, "we're back together, so go figure."





Miss May 1976

Patricia Margot McClain

"I've got a killer new job," Patti (below) reports, barely containing her enthusiasm. "Sales rep for the most popular radio station in Ventura County. I just called them up and said, 'You need me,' and they hired me on the spot." She

sees her new job as a considerable improvement over her last position, in sales for a termite company. It took guts to apply, she said, "but if you can take your clothes off for the camera, you can do anything. I'm happily married [inset], and I'm still in perfect condition."



Miss April 1976 Denise Michele

"PLAYBOY follows me everywhere," notes Denise (above). "My dad used to hide copies of PLAYBOY under his bed. Then in my senior year in high school I did a report on women's liberation and illustrated it with all these tearsheets from PLAYBOY showing how it depicted women as sex objects. Five years later, I was in the magazine." What changed her mind? "When you're 17, what do you know?" she replies. These days, she's the mother of three (inset) and wife of a

supersuccessful producer of TV commercials—think Jason Alexander and pretzels, Jerry Seinfeld and American Express, and those battery-powered Duracell folks—who also had a PLAYBOY connection. "My husband, David, used to do Playmate videos—he did Kimberley Hefner's Video Centerfold."





Miss June 1976 *Debra Peterson*

Debbie (left) was an accomplished equestrienne who used to break in horses, but she quit after deciding that the money wasn't worth the risk. She became a Playboy Bunny and a model—on PLAYBOY's May 1978 cover and in *Measurements and Data* magazine, for example. *M&D*, in its "Metrically Thinking" feature, pointed out that she was 1.67 meters tall and weighed 54 kilograms.



Miss July 1976

Deborah Borkman

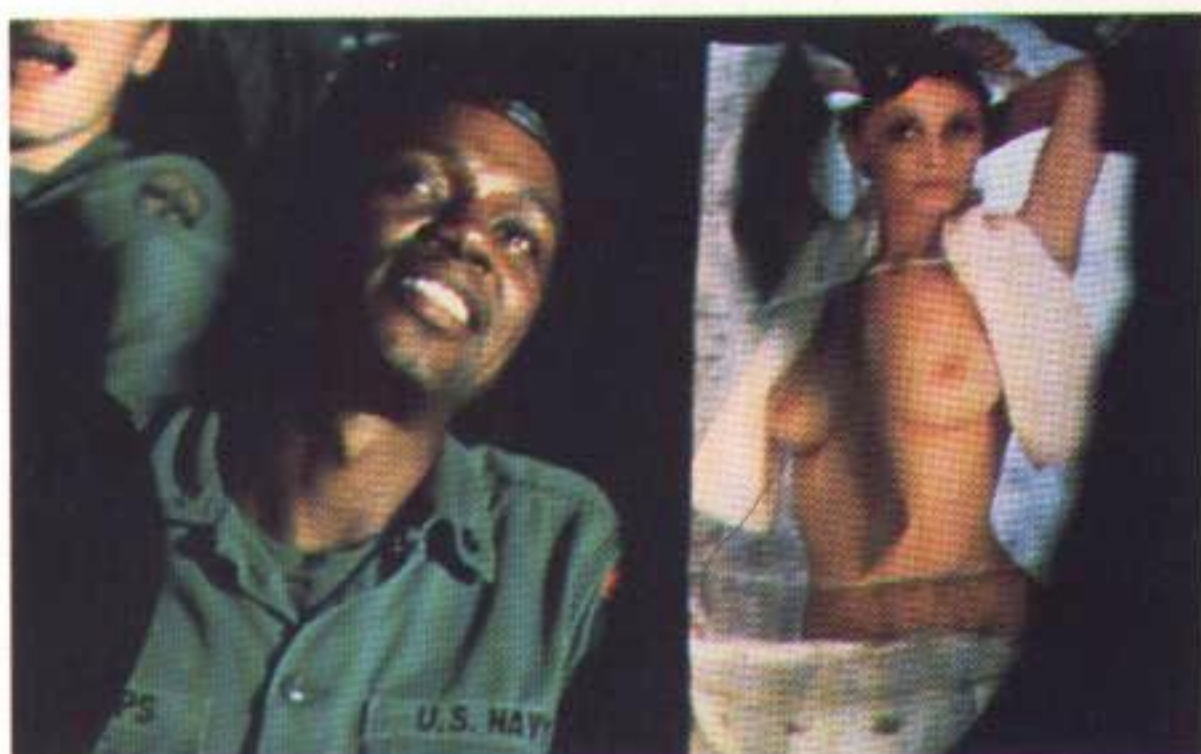
Another Eurasian beauty, Deborah (above and right) blended the Swedish and Japanese strains of her heritage in an exotic mélange that boded well for her modeling career. Were there more like her at home in Painesville, Ohio? Yes, three sisters, all married.



Miss August 1976

Linda Beatty

Winning a part in a major motion picture proved to be good news, bad news for Linda (in her *Playmate Review* shot, below). The movie was Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, in which she played a Playmate turned USO entertainer (that's her centerfold on display in one scene, below center), but she had to endure a typhoon on location in the Philippines.



PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN MARCUS on LINDA BEATTY

Linda was a Southern beauty from Kentucky, probably one of the most intelligent Playmates I ever worked with. She was really, really sharp.

Miss September 1976 Whitney Kaine

Shortly after her centerfold bow (right), Whitney abandoned her UCLA studies to become the disciple of a sage who called himself Bubba Free John. From a commune in Northern California, Whitney told the magazine staffer who interviewed her for *Playboy's Playmate Review*: "Here I'll be able to use my artistic creativity to develop a new culture." Nine years later, she was reported to be living as one of the guru's nine wives on the Fiji island of Naituba, which the sect purchased from actor Raymond Burr.





Miss December 1976

Karen Hafter

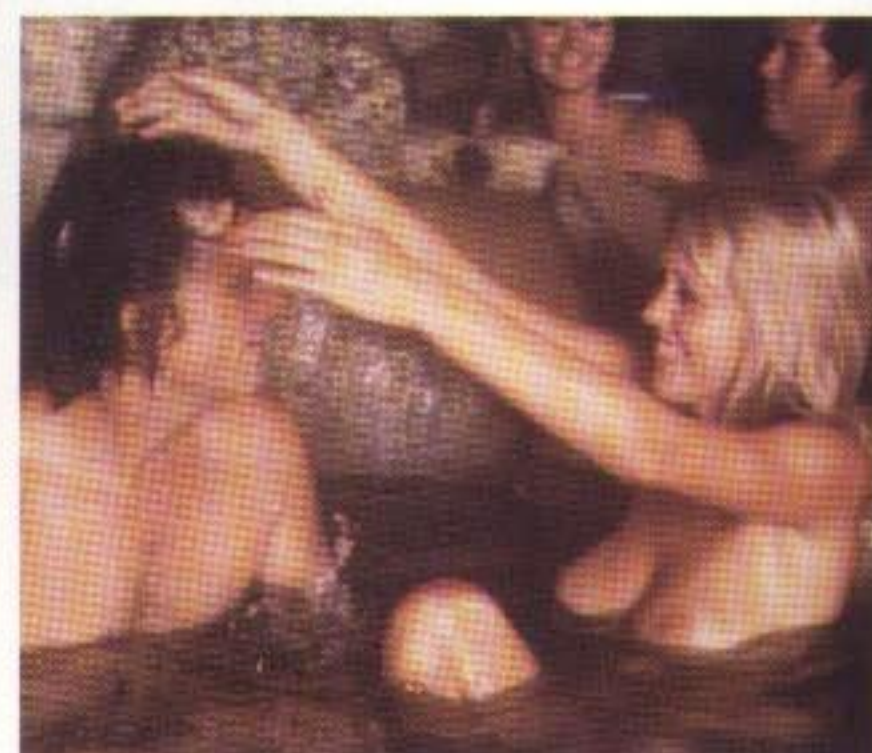
Playmate Anne Randall (May 1967) was the talent scout who spotted Karen (left) waitressing at a Sunset Boulevard eatery not long after her arrival in Hollywood from New Paltz, New York. In less than two years, Karen had become one of Southern California's most sought-after models, hailed by no less an authority than *New West* magazine.

PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN MARCUS *on*

HOPE OLSON

We almost got killed shooting Hope's layout in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Some local bad guys picked a fight with her boyfriend, Punk. He pulverized them, but they came back with guns and the police showed up just in the nick of time. So the next day I called Marilyn Grabowski. "Marilyn," I said, "we've got problems. Punk's in the hospital, Hope is down at the police station being questioned, the shoot is falling apart. What should we do?" And Marilyn said, "Well, if you can get some shots of her being interrogated by the police, that would look good."



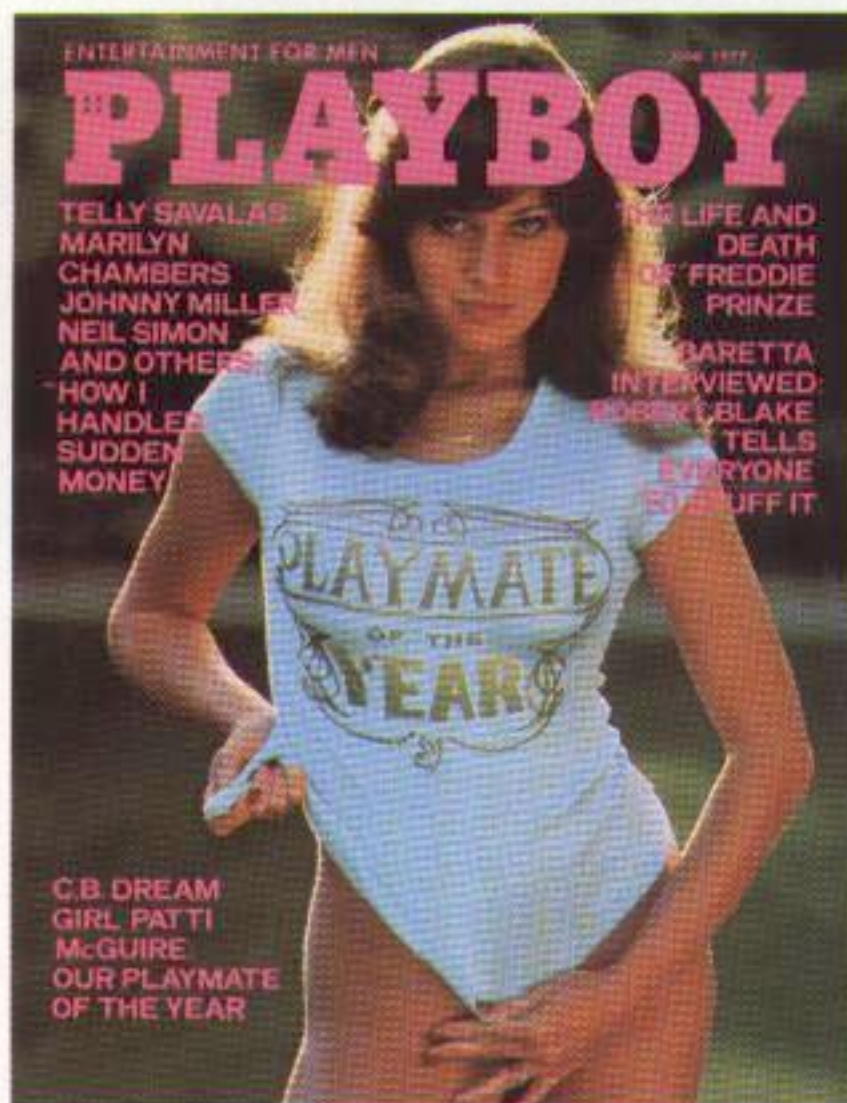
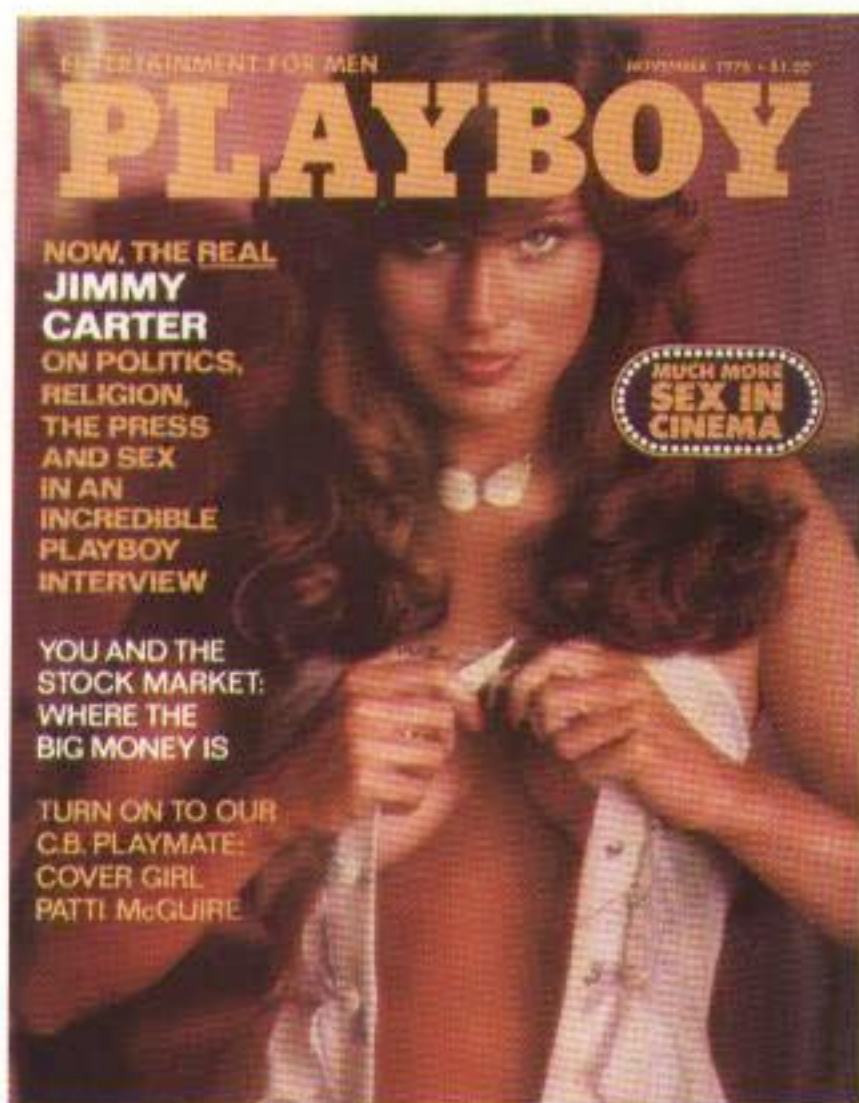
Miss October 1976

Hope Olson

"I went to school, got a degree in early childhood education, and now I have my own home day-care center," Hope reports from Wisconsin. Taking care of the eight kids enrolled in the center, plus her own two—son, 16, and daughter, four—and working as a beautician on the side "keeps me pretty busy, but I love it. And I have seven sisters and two brothers in the area. Between family and friends and business, I don't have much time to spare. But I'm quite content." It's a bit of a change from life at Playboy Mansion West (left, with Hef), not to mention a *Riverboat Gambolers* trip down the Colorado River with fellow Playmate Patti McGuire (bottom left).







Miss November 1976

Patti McGuire

1977 Playmate of the Year

As the 1977 PMOY, Patti posed with Hef for a Christmas subscription ad for the December issue (below center). She was the temptress on the cover of the issue in which presidential candidate Jimmy Carter confessed the lust in his heart. The St. Louis native met a hometown



boy, tennis champ Jimmy Connors (bottom left), at a party at Playboy Mansion West, "but I knew Debra Jensen (Miss January 1978) liked him and I wasn't going to lose my girlfriend over some man." Debra had other interests by the time Jimmy and Patti connected again,

and they proceeded to get married. Mr. and Mrs. Connors have just celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary. They live on a 72-acre ranch with a son and a daughter—both honor students—a couple of horses, three dogs and three cats. "I think God sends orphan kittens to our house, saying, 'The Connors have a soft heart, go there.'"
Today Patti (inset) demonstrates the softness of her own heart by running a charity tent for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation when she travels with Jimmy's Champions Tennis Tour.



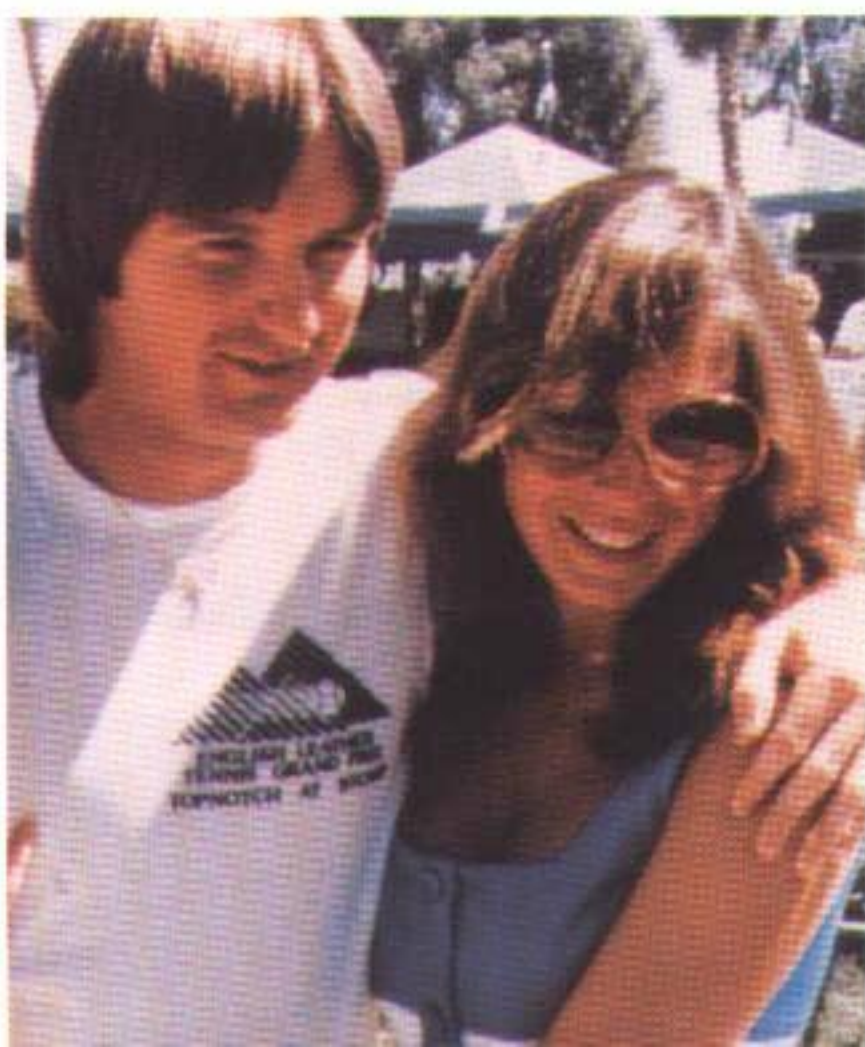
PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR

on

PATTI MCGUIRE

Patti was a Bunny in St. Louis, and I asked her, "Would you like to try for the center-fold?" She said, "This is my dream, but I didn't know how to go for it." We did her picture story in St. Louis, and she was going with a policeman, a nice guy. He told me, "Pompeo, I know I will lose her after this." He was right. But she doesn't forget me. Even now she always sends me a Christmas card and pictures of her children, and she and Jimmy come for dinner at my house when they're in town. And she says, "Oh, Jimmy, Jimmy, if not for Pompeo I would never have you."



HEF on

PATTI MCGUIRE

Patti is one of the best—one of my favorite Playmates and one of my favorite people. She was a member of the close-knit Playboy Mansion West family of the Seventies, and we had some wild and wonderful times together. She and Sondra Theodore were with me when I hosted *Saturday Night Live* in New York in 1977. We celebrated her Playmate of the Year honors with an ABC-TV special titled *Playboy's Playmate Party* that aired that fall as well.



Miss January 1977

Susan Lynn Kiger

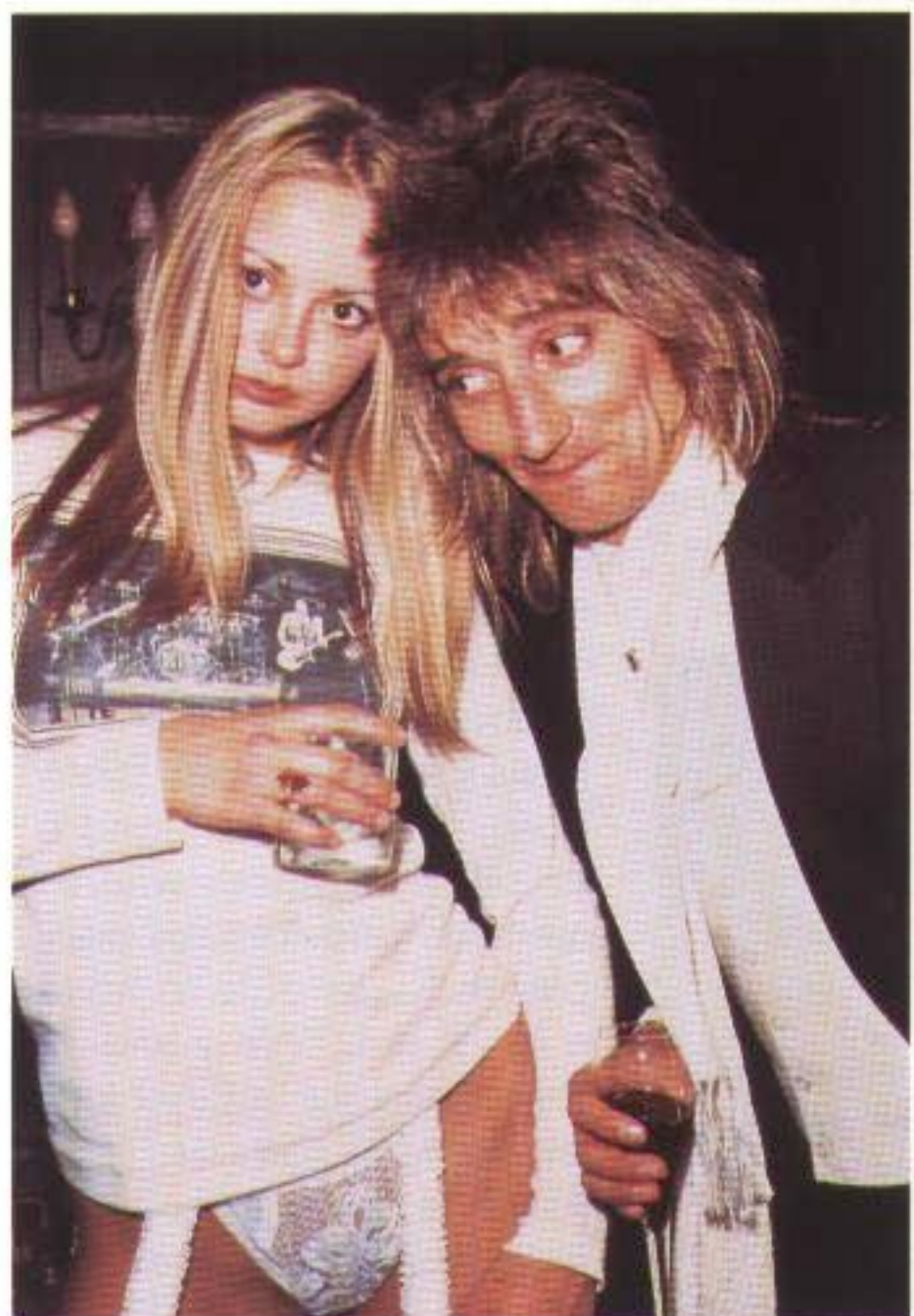
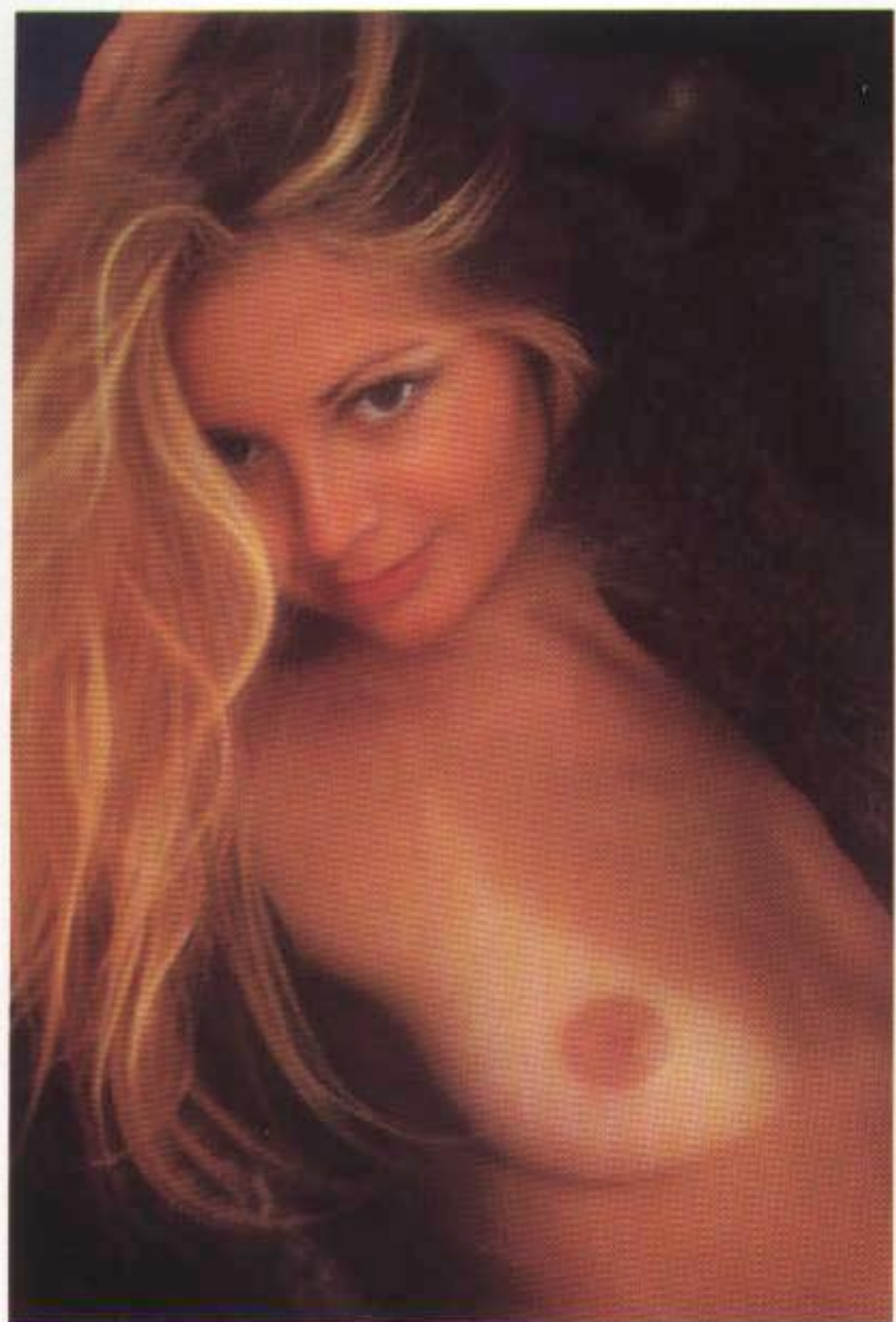
At Playboy Mansion West, they called Susan the Tiger. She was into schussing through the snow, rugby and barefoot water-skiing. Not to mention playing around in the surf, as demonstrated in a February 1978 travel piece about Mexico (below center). With several other Playmates, she starred in a TV special called *All-Star Anything Goes* (below) and in *H.O.T.S.*, a knockoff of *Animal House*, pitting two sororities against each other in a strip football game. The movie, also available on video as *T&A Academy*, is described by critic Leonard Maltin as having "gorgeous girls" and decent production values but is "best watched with the sound off." When last heard from, three-time cover girl Susan was living in the San Diego area.



Miss February 1977

Star Stowe

No, Star wasn't the name she was born with, but she had adopted it with a vengeance, down to a blue tattoo on a part of her body generally obscured from view (but apparent in her *PLAYBOY* layout). It's not that Star was egotistical; rather, she was interested in things celestial. And in rock stars: At the time of her centerfold (right), she was seeing Kiss' Gene Simmons. (That was before he met Playmate Shannon Tweed.) Later, Star connected with Rod Stewart at a Playboy Mansion West party (bottom).





Miss March 1977 *Nicki Thomas*

One of the first Playmates to be a fitness devotee, Nicki (above) worked out at a Chicago-area health club three times a week and on other days trucked down to the local Y to practice gymnastics. "Like driving a car that's out of tune, living in a body that's out of shape wastes energy," she explained.

Miss April 1977 *Lisa Sohm*

She had already been bitten by the travel bug when she hit PLAYBOY's centerfold (left), but the magazine appearance only increased her opportunities. "It was the greatest thing," she says now. "PLAYBOY

changed my entire life. I got sent on fun trips to Ecuador, where I met Vitas Gerulaitis and Bjorn Borg, and to Brazil and a lot of other places where I met rich and famous people and was able to have a lot of fun." Now widowed and the mother of a ten-year-old son, Lisa (inset) is a freelance video producer and partner in an entertainment firm.





Miss May 1977

Sheila Mullen

Her license plates read MMM, for Motor Mouth Mullen, the nickname friends gave her. Asked how she'd respond to feminist charges of exploitation, Sheila (above) told a reporter: "I don't care what some feminist says. She's jealous, it's as simple as that." Sheila worked as a Los Angeles Bunny and was a regular at such Playboy Mansion West events as the TV special *Playboy's Playmate Party*, which scored the highest Nielsen rating ever for an ABC *Thursday Night Special*. Richard Fegley shot Sheila feeding the Mansion's koi (above right) for a December pictorial about the show.



Miss June 1977 *Virve Reid*

One of five centerfolds introduced in February's *Playboy's Playmate Preview*, Virve (below), the daughter of a Scottish-English physician and an Estonian refugee, was spotted by photographer Ken Honey in her hometown of Vancouver, British Columbia. After a brief stint as a Playboy Bunny in London, she returned to Vancouver, where she has been studying herbalism and aromatherapy.





Miss July 1977

Sondra Theodore

The first Playmate Data Sheet—another of Hefner's brainstorms designed to personalize the girl next door—was filled out by a former Sunday-school teacher who was to become an important presence in the Editor-Publisher's life for almost half a decade. Sondra (left) and Hef met and danced to the strains of *Baby Blue Panties* at a Mansion West party. Before long she was the official lady in residence (rising into Hef's arms from the suds in the master bathroom, below). The nickname, Baby Blue, stuck. "Drop the 'panties' and there you have it," Sondra quipped. Sondra was the lead singer in the original Singing Playmates group. When she married Vanna White's manager, Ray Manzella, in 1985, the wedding reception was held at Playboy Mansion West. Now divorced (Manzella is with Playmate Jenny McCarthy these days) and raising their two children, Sondra retains many friends in the PLAYBOY family.



PLAYMATE DATA SHEET

NAME: Sondra Theodore
 BUST: 34 WAIST: 24 HIPS: 35
 HEIGHT: 5'6" WEIGHT: 110 SIGN: Sagittarius
 BIRTH DATE: 12/12/56 BIRTHPLACE: San Bernardino, California
 GOALS: to enjoy life completely, to earn a living doing what I most enjoy: acting. My life-long ambition has been to work as an actress, on stage or screen.
 TURN-ONS: Honesty, someone who sincerely cares. Also, beautiful food, beautiful clothes and beautiful people.
 TURN-OFFS: people who don't live their lives to the fullest, who never reach out for what's around the corner.
 FAVORITE BOOKS: Nancy Drew Mysteries / sexy novels
 FAVORITE PLAYS: those I've enjoyed working in -- Cinderella, Barefoot in the Park, Tobacco Road
 FAVORITE MOVIES: The Way We Were, Rocky, Charlie Chaplin
 FAVORITE MUSICIANS: Barbra Streisand, Nat King Cole, and Marvin Hamlisch
 FAVORITE SPORTS: My current mania is pin-ball, I'm trying to break 300,000 on Captain Fantastic.



age 3, digging for China at the beach.



age 17, spending time at the piano.



age 18, graduation day - finally.

PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN MARCUS on

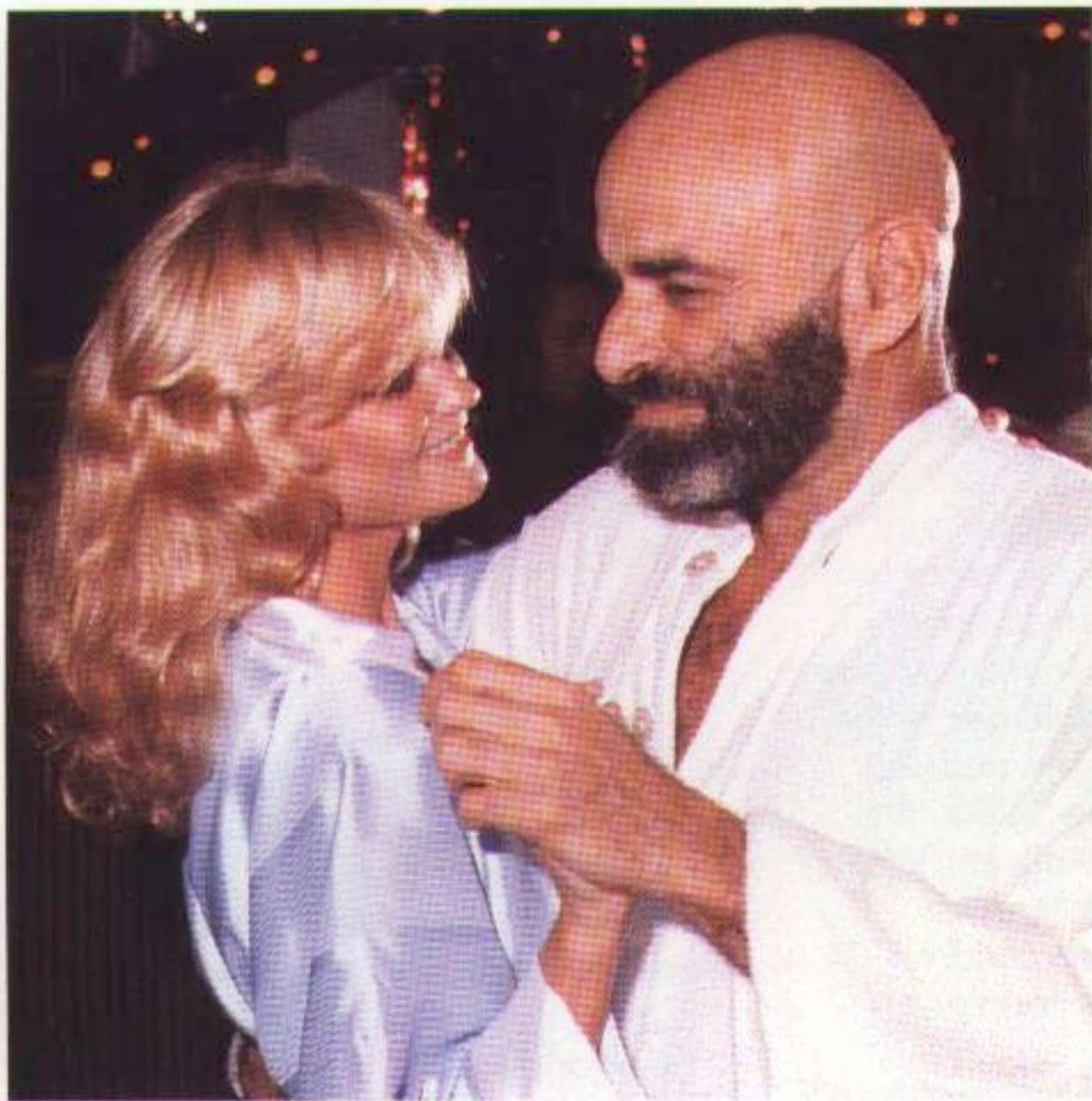
SONDRA THEODORE

Sondra was really sweet. To the best of my knowledge she truly loved Hef, and I don't think she ever took a thing from him. She came up there driving a little Volkswagen Bug and she left there driving a little Volkswagen Bug.

Miss August 1977 Julia Lyndon

Readers of Julia's Playmate story knew that Miss August (below) had elevated tastes (Japanese novels, commedia dell'arte, classic films by Truffaut and Buñuel) and the latest in communications devices, a push-button phone with a brand-new option, call waiting. What they didn't learn was that Julia was the sister of actress Sydne Rome, who starred in Roman Polanski's *What?* and Sergei Bondarchuk's *Ten Days That Shook the World* (about which she wrote a 1982 PLAYBOY piece). At last report, Julia, an accomplished chef, had her own restaurant in South America.



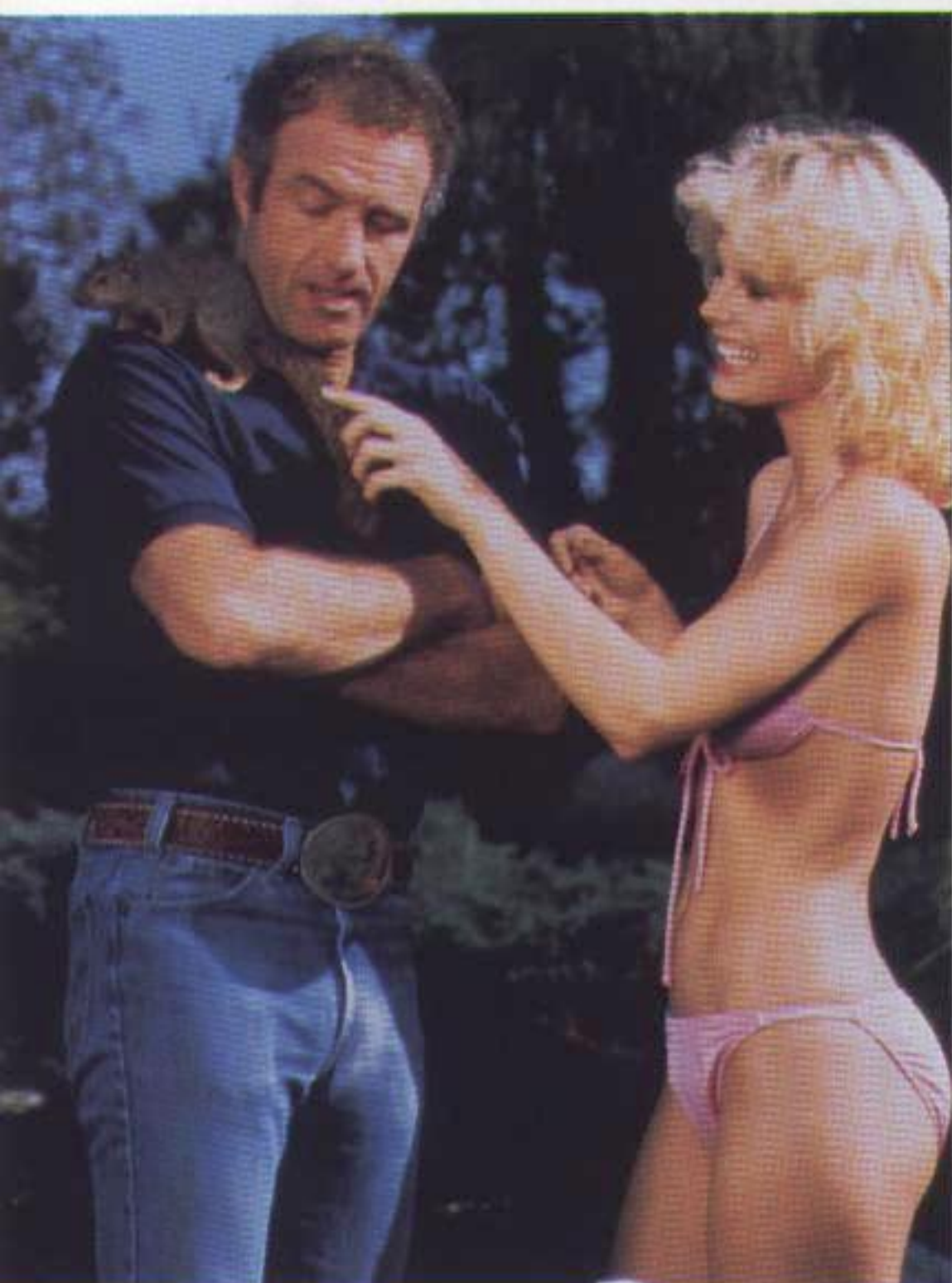




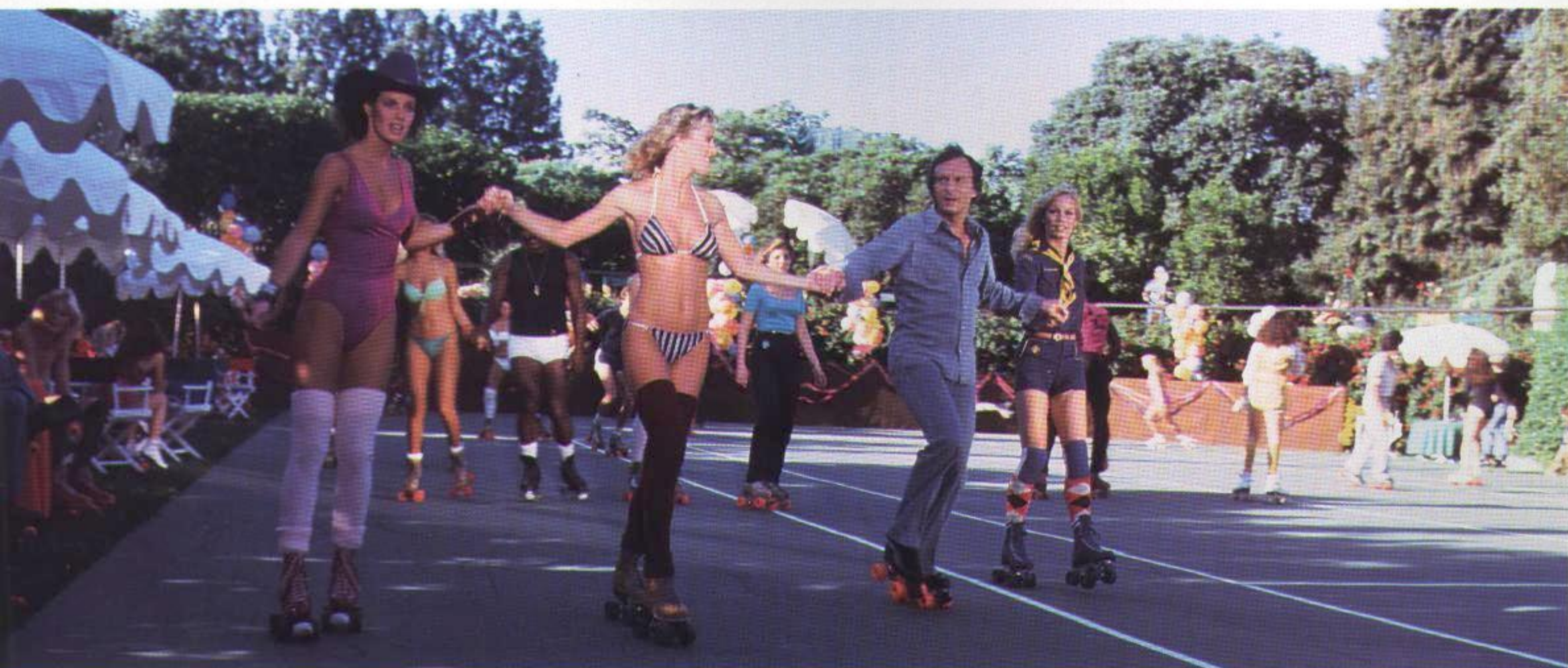
Life at Playboy Mansion West

At the palatial Playboy Mansion West in Holmby Hills, fun and games expanded to include the outdoors, taking advantage of the property's spacious, lavishly landscaped grounds. The pajama parties that had begun at Chicago's Playboy Mansion grew into spectacular Midsummer Night's Dream and New Year's Eve celebrations that quickly became the hottest invite in town. The Mansion also became a popular site for charity benefits and television tapings. Playmate candidates were guests there during their photography sessions, and to a close-knit sorority of Playmates, Mansion West was their home. On the opposite page, far left, Debra Jo Fondren warms up for *Playboy's Roller Disco and Pajama Party*, an hour-long ABC-TV special in 1979. Missy Cleveland and Shel Silverstein dance at 1981's Midsummer Night's Dream party (top center) and Sondra Theodore and Shannon Tweed stage an impromptu soap opera on Labor Day weekend that year. At bottom, Singing Playmates Sondra, Michele Drake, Heidi Sorenson, Kelly Tough and Nicki Thomas tool up the Mansion's winding drive after a rehearsal. This page, above, Hefner and Playmates at a holiday party in 1979. An otherwise demure Patti McGuire flashes friends at 1977's Midsummer Night's Dream affair.





The property boasts its own menagerie of creatures both exotic and native, such as the squirrel attracting the attention of 1980 Playmate of the Year Dorothy Stratten and actor James Caan, for many years a regular at Playboy Mansion West (top left). A separate building houses the Game Room, where (top right) a friendly game of Foosball engages a quartet of Playmates while other guests try their luck at pinball and electronic pastimes. At right, centerfolds have a ball in the outdoor pool. This, like the skating scene below, showcasing (from left) Jeana Tomasino, Victoria Cooke, Hef and Sondra Theodore, was taped for the 1979 ABC-TV special about fun and games at Mansion West.



Miss September 1977
Debra Jo Fondren
1978 Playmate of the Year

Readers loved her. So did photographers, fascinated by all that hair. "She is her own location," marveled Richard Fegley, who included her in his book *Dreams* (overleaf). Enchanted by Debra Jo's personality and modeling skills, famed photographer Francis Giacobetti said, "People don't realize that a good model is fantastically talented. She was very professional, totally uncomplicated." She also posed for J. Frederick Smith and Robert Scott Hooper, and attended 1979's Playmate Reunion (with Hef on page 213). At heart Debra Jo has always been a hometown girl from Beaumont, Texas. Recently, she became a born-again Christian and has stopped working as a casting director—and doing promotions for PLAYBOY. "I just feel there is too much worldliness, too much emphasis on sex," in show business and in the magazine. "But God made us all differently, and it's not our job to judge anyone else," she added. "If I hadn't done PLAYBOY, I wouldn't be the same person I am now. All the girls with whom I became friends as a Playmate are wonderful. And everybody I've known at the company—they're just the sweetest, kindest people. I adore them." These days Debra Jo, who is married to a puppeteer, does temporary secretarial work.

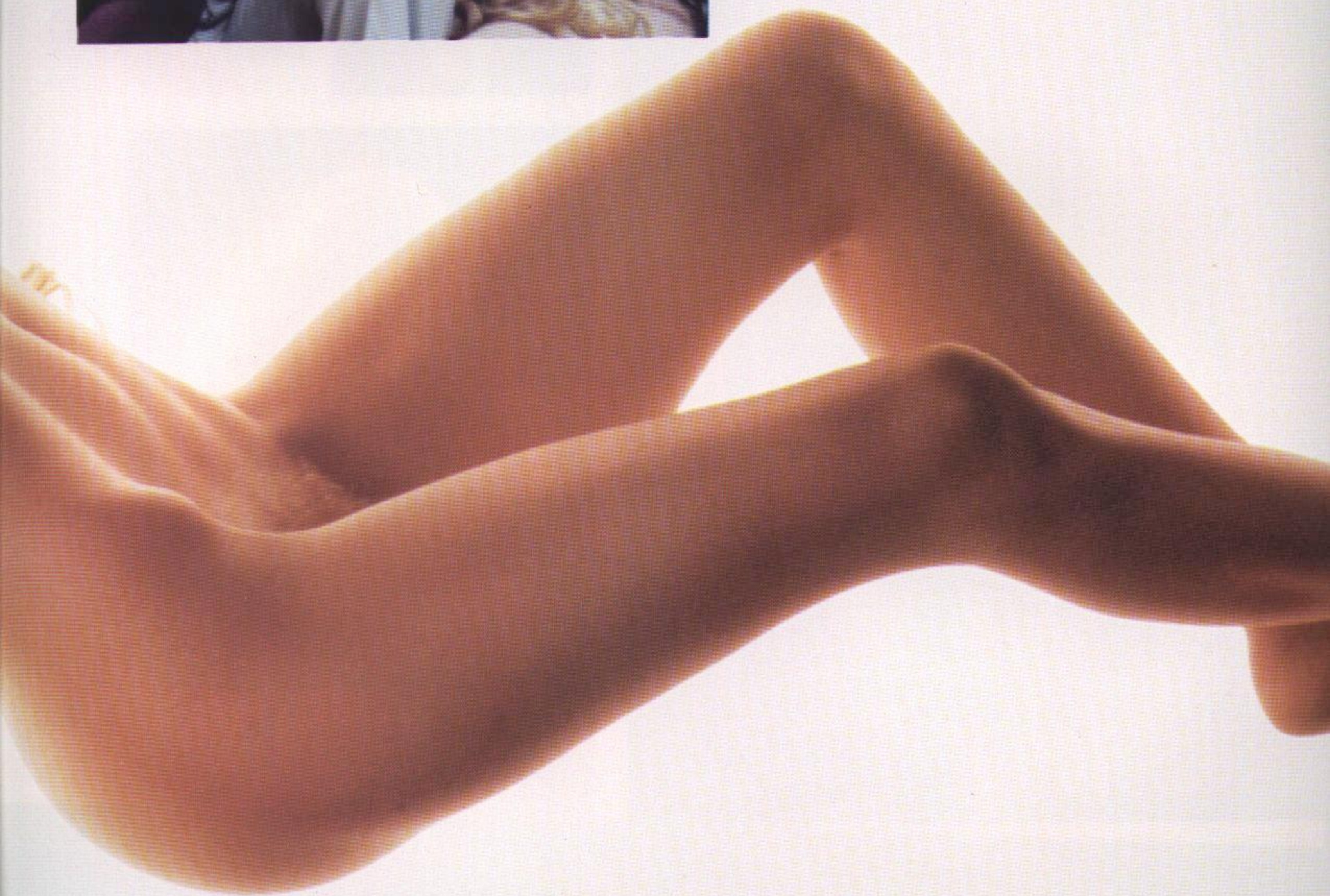






HEF on DEBRA JO FONDREN

Debra Jo was one of the most popular Playmates of the Seventies. She reminded me of World War Two film star Veronica Lake, because she was petite like Veronica, and because she had this incredible hair. She was a standout at the Playmate Reunion and on the *Playboy's Roller Disco and Pajama Party* special on ABC-TV in 1979. She was still working for Playboy TV, behind and in front of the camera, in the Nineties. She can be seen in the videos *Playboy's Playmates: The Early Years* and *Playmates in Paradise*, released in 1992.





Miss October 1977 *Kristine Winder*

After spending 17 years practicing two to six hours a day, Kristine (above) decided she didn't have the kind of ambition it takes to become a professional dancer. She opted to study English literature, but she must have read up on American authors as well, because she won \$16,000 answering questions about Ernest Hemingway on TV's \$128,000 *Question*. Now living in Victoria, British Columbia, she's the mother of two teenagers and a communications manager for the provincial government.

Miss November 1977

Rita Lee

Rita (bottom and right) came from Minnesota, where she worked as a model, and appeared on three *PLAYBOY* covers (two of which are shown below) and several pictorials. Rita was one of photographer Richard Fegley's favorite models, and he shot her in Mexico for his book *Dreams*, excerpts from which appeared in *PLAYBOY* in 1982. She later moved to New York.



PLAYBOY STAFFER

WALTER LOWE on RITA LEE

Rita was six feet of sexy, sultry sensuality. The thing that surprised me most was her telling me she was a good cook and then rattling off various recipes. She seemed to know what she was talking about, but I could never get a credible mental image of her standing over a stove.



Miss December 1977

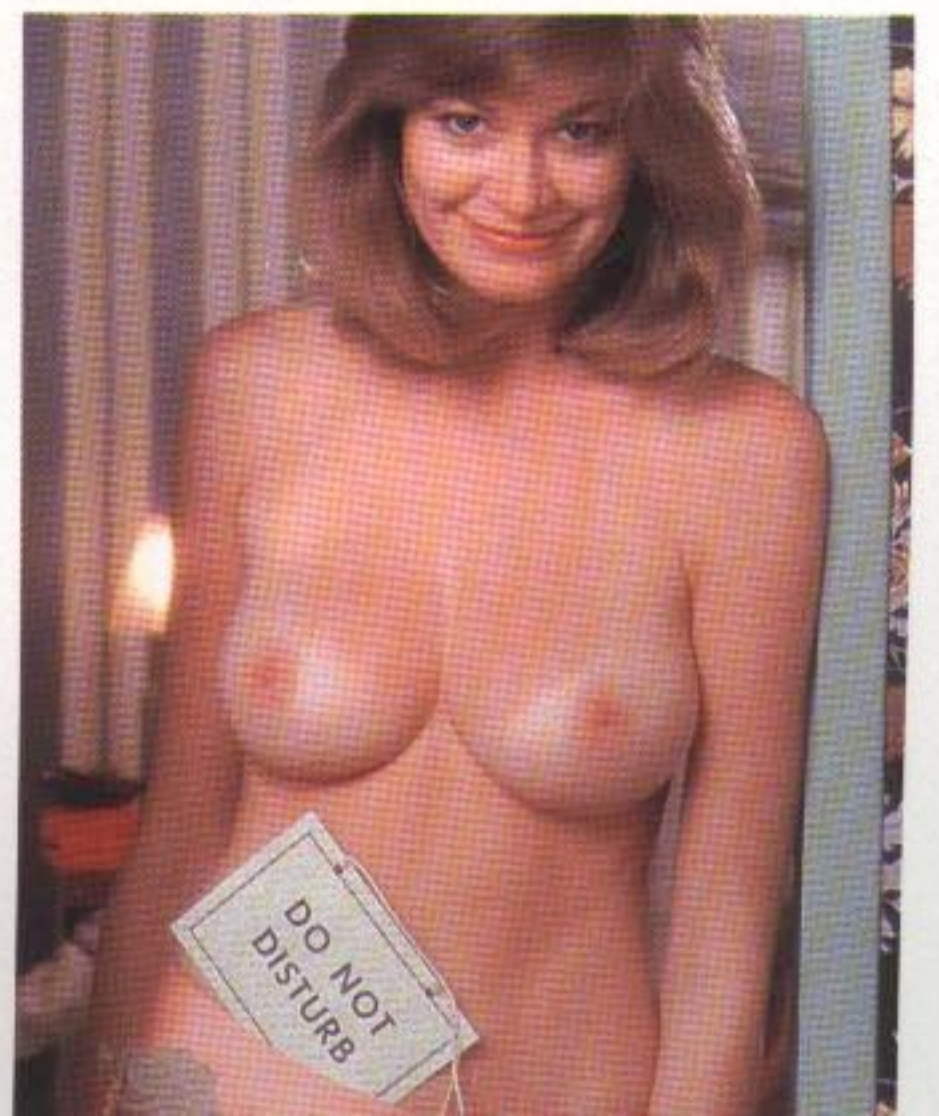
Ashley Cox

After her Playmate centerfold (left), Ashley worked in films (*Night Shift*, *Looker*) and television (*Vega\$*, below). "I was up for a couple of Aaron Spelling pilots and was set to do one with Rock Hudson when I just decided Hollywood wasn't what I wanted."



That was 1984. "I packed up my little Alfa Romeo Spyder convertible, put it on a transporter, told the struggling artist I'd been seeing that he could have everything in my apartment, and came home to Texas." Since then she has traveled,

opened an aerobics studio, married and had two children, who are now into Little League and T-ball. "Bottom line is, I've been married several times and I'm still looking for my knight in shining armor," Ashley says today (inset). "Men think they want a fantasy girl, but when they meet somebody who's been a centerfold and dated a couple of well-known actors, I think that overwhelms them." Now a legal secretary, she hopes to meet "somebody who's not an alcoholic, not controlling, just a good Joe who'll be a decent provider and a good father to my children." At bottom, Ashley kids around in an outtake from her Playmate pictorial.



Miss January 1978

Debra Jensen

Debra got over her crush on Jimmy Connors, then married Kiss' Peter Criss (near right). Now she's gotten over him, too—"although we're still good friends"—and is married to an attorney in California's Orange County. She has two children, ages 15 and one, and is working toward a bachelor's degree in art history. "But I may pursue drug-and-alcohol counseling. People are always advising me to go into that, because they enjoy telling me their stories and I'm able to give them some positive feedback."



PLAYBOY STAFFER

JAMES R. PETERSEN *on* DEBRA JENSEN

To finish our interview, Debra drove me to her place in a Mercedes gullwing that a boyfriend had lent her. When we got there, she discovered she had lost her key. So I helped her break into what I hoped was her apartment. I opened the copy in her Playmate story with the description of Debra Jensen's absolutely beautiful bottom inching its way through this slender window. Later someone sent us a copy of a 40-page Ph.D. thesis in which he said, "See, PLAYBOY is always taunting you with images of violation. Here we have breaking and entering, another sexual metaphor." And I said, "No, she lost her house key."



Miss February 1978 *Janis Schmitt*

"I don't know where the years went," says Janis (below and right) from her home in St. Louis—where she used to be a Playboy Bunny. "It kind of seems like yesterday."

Unbelievably, Janis is a grandmother. She'd had a son when she was 19, long before her Playmate appearance at 31. "PLAYBOY was certainly one of the best things that ever happened to me," she says. "I always wanted to be an actress and a model, star in movies and TV shows and stuff, and I did get to do that. I was satisfied with that accomplishment." Janis has been happily married for 11 years and works in a hospital clinic.



PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN MARCUS *on* JANIS SCHMITT

I loved Janis Schmitt. I thought she was one of the nicest, sweetest women that I'd ever met. We shot her picture story in her hometown of St. Louis, where she was a Bunny at the Playboy Club. There was quite a bit of publicity about our photo team's arrival, and one morning I woke up to a ruckus outside our door. I opened it and there were what seemed like hundreds of Bible-toting, placard-carrying women out there, very angry at the fact that we were taking pictures for PLAYBOY in their town.



Miss March 1978 *Christina Smith*



"I'm a mortgage banker working on my broker's license, which is not easy, I'll tell you," Christina asserts from her home in California's Marin County. Formerly married to a state highway patrol officer, she's now with her second husband, an accountant (left), whom she describes as "a jewel. I could never ask for anything more. We don't have children, but we do have two chocolate Labs, two cats and a house in the hills." Things haven't been so rosy. "I had cancer and chemotherapy and at one point was down to 75 pounds. Then a couple of years ago I had open-heart surgery. My heart suddenly stopped at a New Year's Eve party and I went down. Friends yanked me up off the floor and accidentally started my heart again. It turns out I had been born with a congenital defect, and I still face some surgery—a mitral valve will have to be replaced—but I'm doing pretty well."



Miss April 1978

Pamela Jean Bryant

"My acting career started out with a big boom when I was a Playmate," Pamela recalls. "I did 86 TV shows before I was 25." Some of them: *B.J. and the Bear*, *General Hospital*, *Magnum P.I.* and a pilot for *Semi-Tough* (below), based on Dan Jenkins' PLAYBOY short story. After earning a degree in fine arts at UCLA, "all of a sudden I started getting movies again, and I've done four in the past five years." But films are more like a hobby these days. Pamela has her own faux-finishing business and is redecorating buildings, including Walter Pidgeon's old home.



Miss May 1978

Kathryn Morrison

As a child, Kathryn (above) lived in 13 different towns in the Southwest before settling in Los Angeles. Surprisingly, she still had a yen for travel, visiting Hawaii, Acapulco, London and Venice (Italy, not California) within a 12-month period.



Miss June 1978

Gail Stanton

"You're the one who gave me my name!" exclaimed Gail (above), a Southern lilt still in her voice, reminding the author that she'd wanted to pick "Gail Storm" as a Playmate name to save her father, a deacon in the Southern Baptist church, embarrassment. "You told me no, that would sound like the actress who played in *My Little Margie*, and suggested Gail Stanton. I liked it so much I kept it." Gail did PLAYBOY promotions for six years, repped Anheuser-Busch as Miss Michelob Light for five and Seagram's as special events coordinator for another five—somehow finding time to do public relations for the Knoxville World's Fair and hobnob with the rich and famous (e.g., Dudley Moore, at a Mansion West New Year's Eve party, above left). Today she's manager of player development for the ITT Sheraton Casino in Mississippi.



Miss July 1978 *Karen Morton*

A spunky old lady in North Hollywood—everybody called her Ma Vern—was grandmother to both Karen (left) and her cousin Elaine Morton (inset), Miss June 1970. Ma Vern died shortly after Karen's Playmate story appeared, but her looks live on in Elaine's and Karen's daughters. Above, Karen schmoozes with Clint Eastwood at a 1979 Playboy Mansion West party. That was before she hooked up with an award-winning songwriter and record producer—she's been married to him for six years. Motherhood has occupied most of Karen's time lately, but there's a brand-new career on the horizon: "I'm starting a leather line—jackets, skirts, pants—with a friend. We're calling it Havoc."

Miss August 1978 *Vicki Witt*

On her Playmate Data Sheet, Vicki (right) wrote that her secret dream was to be shipwrecked on an island with Lee Majors. Vicki spent the next couple of years doing promotions for *PLAYBOY*, and a different Playmate actually married the Six Million Dollar Man. As things worked out, Vicki is content to be where she is: living in the Midwest as a wife and mother of three.

Miss September 1978 *Rosanne Katon*

She has been an actress, a stand-up comedienne, a writer (of screenplays and a children's book, as yet unpublished). But the search for a summer camp for her daughter propelled Rosanne (below) into her most ambitious project: helping develop a way to rid war-torn Third World countries of land mines. Her husband, Richard Walden, heads the international relief agency Operation USA, and Rosanne has accompanied him as a volunteer to such hot spots as Rwanda and the killing fields of Cambodia (below right). "The reason so many people are in refugee camps in Cambodia is that the country is littered with mines—plastic ones that can't be located with metal detectors," she explains. "Two summers ago I got our daughter, who's a math and science nut, into this robotics camp that NASA was doing, and I got to talking with the NASA engineers who were teaching there and found out that no one had ever asked them if their equipment could be put to use in the Third World. Within a week, we identified 42 items that could be life-saving. And when you look at it, their mandates are the same as ours: We're taking care of a human population in a hostile environment, which is what a refugee camp is." Operation USA is now cooperating with NASA and United Nations agencies on several projects, one of them involving the possible use of satellites, drone helicopters and robots to sense and detonate plastic mines. "So thanks to my daughter's robotics camp, we now have this program. I'm coordinating all the elements between these various agencies and my husband, who's not a techie. And the engineers are thrilled that their work can save lives."



PHOTOGRAPHER

MARIO CASILLI

on

ROSANNE KATON

Rosanne was just great. I went to Jamaica with her and met her whole family, whom I liked very much. Her family was every color of the rainbow, from light redhead with freckles to the blackest black. They were great people, really nice to me.



Miss October 1978

Marcy Hanson

"Do you know I made Mario Casilli take off his clothes?" asks Marcy. "I felt that those little clear plastic shorts they gave me to wear in my centerfold (left) were just, oh, perverted or something. I was more comfortable naked. I kept blushing and every time I blushed I would fog



up the shorts. So I locked myself in the dressing room and said I wasn't coming out in those shorts until Mario put them on himself. And he did, and he kind of looked like Richie Cunningham's father being bad." Marcy had been a guest at Playboy Mansion West a week when she landed a bit as one of the *Tonight Show's* Mighty Carson Art Players. From that start, she enjoyed a 20-year career in television, everything from *The Jeffersons* to *Cheers* to *Welcome Back, Kotter* to her own short-lived series, *Rollergirls*. What she really loved was life at the Mansion. "I grew up in that house," she says today. "I learned everything I know about socializing and entertaining from my years there. And now I have a big, beautiful manor in Galveston that I've restored into a bed-and-breakfast (left). I've tried to make it a little Playboy Mansion, with white terrycloth robes for the guests and movies and popcorn at eight o'clock every Sunday night. I love it." Still the same size she was as a Playmate, Marcy (above left) remains in demand for modeling assignments and commercials.

Miss December 1978

Janet Quist

Late in 1976 PLAYBOY announced a Playmate Photo Contest. Of 11 winning entries published the following August, only Janet actually made the centerfold (right). Since then she has married, divorced, begun a new relationship and had four children. The three eldest are into music, ice skating and karate, and the youngest daughter (with Mom, left) is already a model. "I've just earned my degree in cosmetology," Janet said while signing autographs at Glamourcon in Los Angeles, "and I'd like to work in the entertainment industry, doing makeup."



Miss November 1978

Monique St. Pierre

1979 Playmate of the Year

"I had no idea that being in PLAYBOY would be such a big thing in my life. Nineteen years later, I'm still involved," says Monique, who's now a successful independent stylist and costume designer. "I do a lot of movie stars, but I can't mention their names," she says. "They're supposed to dress themselves." When Monique's centerfold appeared, she had just been signed by the

Wilhelmina modeling agency.

"When Wilhelmina saw PLAYBOY, she freaked out and I was sacked," Monique recalls.

"High-fashion models didn't do nudity then.

Now you see nudes in *Vogue*." At PLAYBOY, Monique not only modeled but held down an executive position at the Playboy Channel, where she wrote, produced and appeared in programs. She credits West Coast Photo Editor Marilyn Grabowski with getting her started in her present career. "I was an actress-model and my husband, Steve Parrish, was also an actor. I thought it would be better for the marriage if we

didn't have two actors in the family, so I called Marilyn and she really gave me a break, put me to work as a stylist." The marriage, like two others, didn't last, but Steve and Monique did have a son, Christopher. "It feels as if we're still a family," she says now. "We do things together, like going to the Easter egg hunts at the Mansion with the other Playmates and their children. We just live in two different houses." Monique credits genetics with keeping her looking pretty much the same today as when she became Playmate of the Year. Insets above: her PMOY cover and introduction by emcee Bill Cosby.



PLAYBOY PUBLIC
RELATIONS DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH NORRIS on

MONIQUE ST. PIERRE

Monique was elegant, a show-stopper. That Bob Mackie dress she wore as Playmate of the Year was sensational; it was glued to her body so she could hardly move. But even when she walked through an airport in street clothes, heads turned. She had a great sense of humor, as well. When we traveled together, we laughed until we hurt.



Miss January 1979 Candy Loving 25th Anniversary Playmate

"I'm a huge Hugh Hefner fan," Candy declared over lunch at a Florida beach-front restaurant. "He really cares what happens to people and to our world. I feel he really took a big step for this country as far as censorship goes, and in how the media treat women. In the five years I

traveled for PLAYBOY, women's libbers would often picket the hotels where I was staying. And I would tell them, 'This is ludicrous. I'm here because I choose to be here, not because somebody has forced me to be here. Not to mention that PLAYBOY treats me like a queen.'" Below, she posed in Chicago's Playboy Mansion, pausing (right) to test Hefner's round, rotating, vibrating bed. Those PLAYBOY promotions, including many radio interviews (page 226), financed Candy's bachelor's degree in journalism and graduate studies in human relations, which were aimed at a career in social work. "I found I knew one thing. I knew that I wasn't ready to counsel other people yet." She'd been dating a player with the





Tampa Bay Buccaneers, so in 1984 she headed to Florida and got an entry-level sales job at \$17,000 a year. "I

called one of my Playmate friends and she said, 'Candy, you make \$500 a day with PLAYBOY. What are you doing?'

But now I'm into my 11th year working in the health-benefit industry, and I handle about \$85 million worth of business." Now married (not to the Buc) and a mother, Candy often thinks of how today's sexual attitudes will affect her daughter. "I read all these women's magazines at the hair-dresser's and they're full of articles about date rape and women being so paranoid, thinking that someone is out to get them, that they don't take it as a compliment when somebody opens a car door. I think that's too bad. That's the thing about PLAYBOY: It helped me feel good about being a woman, and being an attractive woman." She still is.

PLAYBOY PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH NORRIS *on* CANDY LOVING

I think Candy Loving was, before Christie Hefner, the single most valuable female asset the company had. We would take her to dinner with the wholesalers and retailers who made the decisions to sell or not to sell the magazine. Very often their wives had some objection to PLAYBOY. And Candy would turn these women around, because she was so intelligent, so pretty, so wholesome, such a charming, gracious lady that their concerns would just sort of disappear. Most prejudices about PLAYBOY are based on ignorance, and when these women found out what the magazine was really about instead of what they thought it was about, their objections simply melted away.





Miss February 1979

Lee Ann Michelle

As Carol Needham, this British bird had been a popular Page Three girl in London's tabloid press. But when she came to America with the hope of getting into movies she posed for PLAYBOY (left) under the more exotic name of Lee Ann Michelle. In the late Seventies she was frequently seen with Motown mogul Berry Gordy.



Miss March 1979 *Denise McConnell*

A licensed private investigator in Oklahoma, Denise (right) pointed out that being a female was an advantage in her profession. "If I want to talk to someone, especially a man, it's easy to get his attention." One of 3500 women who entered the competition for 25th Anniversary Playmate, she was one of 14 who eventually made it to the centerfold. Denise also joined the Singing Playmates and appeared on a Playboy TV cooking show (above).



Miss May 1979

Michele Drake

"I recently had another child at the ripe old age of 38!" Michele reported happily. Her centerfold (left) helped further the goals expressed in her Playmate Data Sheet: "Acting, singing, dancing professionally." Within weeks she was booked with Johnny Carson (below) and in the Richard Gere movie *American Gigolo*. She joined the Singing Playmates (bottom), but her husband at the time, a record company exec, "made me quit. He treated it like a little hobby." They divorced, and Michele married a musician, the father of her son and daughter. At one time, Michele and Playmate Daina House planned to record their own songs under the name of Blondfire, but Daina decided it wasn't for her. Some years ago, Michele had developed an interest in holistic medicine. After the birth of her second child, she began studying it seriously. "I think it's the wave of the future, the place where alternative medicine therapies and conventional medicine meet." She is writing a booklet on the subject and expects to receive her diploma in homeopathy during 1996.





Miss April 1979

Missy Cleveland

It was Missy's mother who talked her into entering the Great Playmate Hunt of 1978, and Mom still thinks her daughter looks great. "I've put on a few pounds, but my mother says I look better than I have in years," Missy reported while fielding questions from would-be clients of the property management firm where she works back in her home state of Mississippi. "I stayed in California until 1983, did some acting [e.g., *Blowout*, below left], moved to Florida, then to Montreal, where I ran a club for a girlfriend who was a French singer." Her big news: "Last April I got married for the first time [below right]. He's a car painter and a musician. We met through friends, he invited me out to dinner and stood me up, and I've been getting even with him ever since. Now I'm 36, trying to have a baby before I'm 38, and that's about it."



Miss June 1979

Louann Fernald

She had been jogging every day for years, and in 1988 Louann fulfilled an ambition. "I ran in the New York Marathon. My goal was to do it in four hours. I made it in 3:58:48." She has surpassed some other goals, too: marriage, motherhood (twin boys, three, and a girl, five) and three successful careers—stockbroker, public relations consultant and owner (with her husband) of a printing company. There's more: Louann has just been admitted to law school. "So we're building a house in the suburbs and moving out of Manhattan."



Miss August 1979
Dorothy Stratten
 1980 Playmate of the Year

On the line of her Playmate Data Sheet headed "Turn-Offs," the shy, luminous 19-year-old from British Columbia wrote unhesitatingly: "jealous people." Just a year later, Dorothy Stratten was dead, murdered by an insanely possessive husband because she was leaving him for director Peter Bogdanovich. No one who ever met Dorothy, or saw her in one of her all too few film appearances—or as a Bunny at the Los Angeles Playboy Club (bottom right)—has been able to forget her unique presence or her generous spirit. Her tragic story inspired a TV movie starring Jamie Lee Curtis, the Bob Fosse film *Star 80* with Mariel Hemingway as Dorothy, a Hefner-commissioned documentary and a touching May 1981 tribute in the magazine that prompted unprecedented reader response.

PLAYBOY PUBLIC
 RELATIONS DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH NORRIS on
 DOROTHY STRATTEN

There was nobody ever like Dorothy. She was pure, she was an angel, and everybody loved her. And she learned so fast. When I first met her, she was young, gawky and inexperienced. Her

fingernails were chipped, her grammar was poor, she didn't know how to handle herself in an interview. So I worked with her and tried to correct just one thing per day and build up her confidence. By the end of a month you wouldn't believe the difference. She spent a year working out and grooming herself into this magnificent creature, and that body was 100 percent natural. I think that she would have been a great actress, but she was a wonderful, wonderful person no matter what.

PLAYMATE DATA SHEET

NAME: Dorothy Stratten
 BUST: 36 WAIST: 24 HIPS: 36
 HEIGHT: 5'9" WEIGHT: 123 SIGN: Pisces
 BIRTH DATE: 2/28/60 BIRTHPLACE: Vancouver, B.C.
 GOALS: To become a successful actress and do a lot of travelling.
 TURN-ONS: Life, love, poetry and little animals.
 TURN-OFFS: Jealous people, oysters, people who don't care about their bodies, wasting time.
 FAVORITE MOVIES: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Midnight Express, A Star Is Born, Silent Movie.
 FAVORITE TV SHOWS: Mark & Mandy, Bionic Woman, All in the Family, The Gong Show.
 FAVORITE MUSICIANS: Barry Manilow, Janis Ian, Village People.
 FAVORITE BOOKS: Lord of the Flies, Love Story, Oliver's Story, Valley of the Dolls, Sunshine.
 FAVORITE FOODS: Steak, Japanese food, lasagna.
 SECRET DREAM: To fly to the moon, to be able to hear other people think for a day.



Easter Sunday
 Age 4

A cowgirl at 9

Trying not to laugh
 Age 14

PHOTOGRAPHER

MARIO CASILLI on DOROTHY STRATTEN

When Dorothy died, my heart went out of photographing Playmates. She was like one of our daughters.







HEF
on
DOROTHY STRATTEN

None of us ever fully recovered from Dorothy's death. It came at the start of what proved to be a dark decade for PLAYBOY. I tried to make some sense of it all with an editorial tribute to her in the magazine and a documentary, but nothing really helped. She was a truly remarkable person who enriched the lives of everyone who knew her. While she was shooting her Playmate of the Year pictorial, Marilyn Grabowski gave her a puppy and she named it Marston, my middle name. When Dorothy and Peter Bogdanovich returned from New York after the filming of *They All Laughed*, Peter came and told me about their romance. I told him how special I thought she was and to take care of her. Two days later, she was dead. I still visit her grave from time to time. Marilyn Monroe is buried there, too.



Miss July 1979

Dorothy Mays

She told her magazine interviewer that she had run away from home when she was 16. A stylist in a men's hair salon when her centerfold came out, Dorothy (above) used her Playmate fee to buy her own shop. Leaving her centerfold years far behind, she lives a quiet life today in one of the Western states.



Miss October 1979 *Ursula Buchfellner*

Three years earlier, Ursula (right) couldn't afford tram fare from her depressed neighborhood in Munich to the other side of town. That was before she was noticed by an editor of PLAYBOY's German edition and scheduled for a centerfold photo shoot—which, as luck had it, was chronicled by a TV crew and broadcast before a national audience. Enter more photographers—and movie producers. Her sexy scene in Sidney Sheldon's *Bloodline* (above) got clipped by overzealous censors, but other film and modeling assignments soon wafted Ursula far beyond crosstown Munich—to Paris, Rome, Chicago, Kenya, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Mauritius. Soon, she joked, "I might run out of continents."



Miss November 1979

Sylvie Garant

Leaving her native Quebec, Sylvie (right) found work with Jo Penney's top-rated Toronto modeling agency—and, thanks to a boyfriend, entered PLAYBOY's 25th Anniversary Playmate hunt. Sylvie, who had learned English in a Boston convent school, traveled extensively for PLAYBOY, including a trip to Japan with seven other centerfolds. Eventually she returned to Canada and the Penney agency.



Miss December 1979

Candace Collins

"You never retire from PLAYBOY," says Candace (seen in her centerfold, far left). "It's like a giant family. I love it." Since her marriage to an ad agency owner in 1989, Candace has pretty much retired from her modeling career. Her photo these days (inset) shows up more often on the society pages than magazine covers (see three examples

at left)—but it was remarkable while it lasted. "I was in New York with Wilhelmina, in Europe with the Covers Agency out of Barcelona, and of course I did a lot of work in Chicago. And none of it would have happened without PLAYBOY. It got me out of Dupo, Illinois, a town of about 3000 people, and into the Playboy Club as a Bunny in St. Louis and

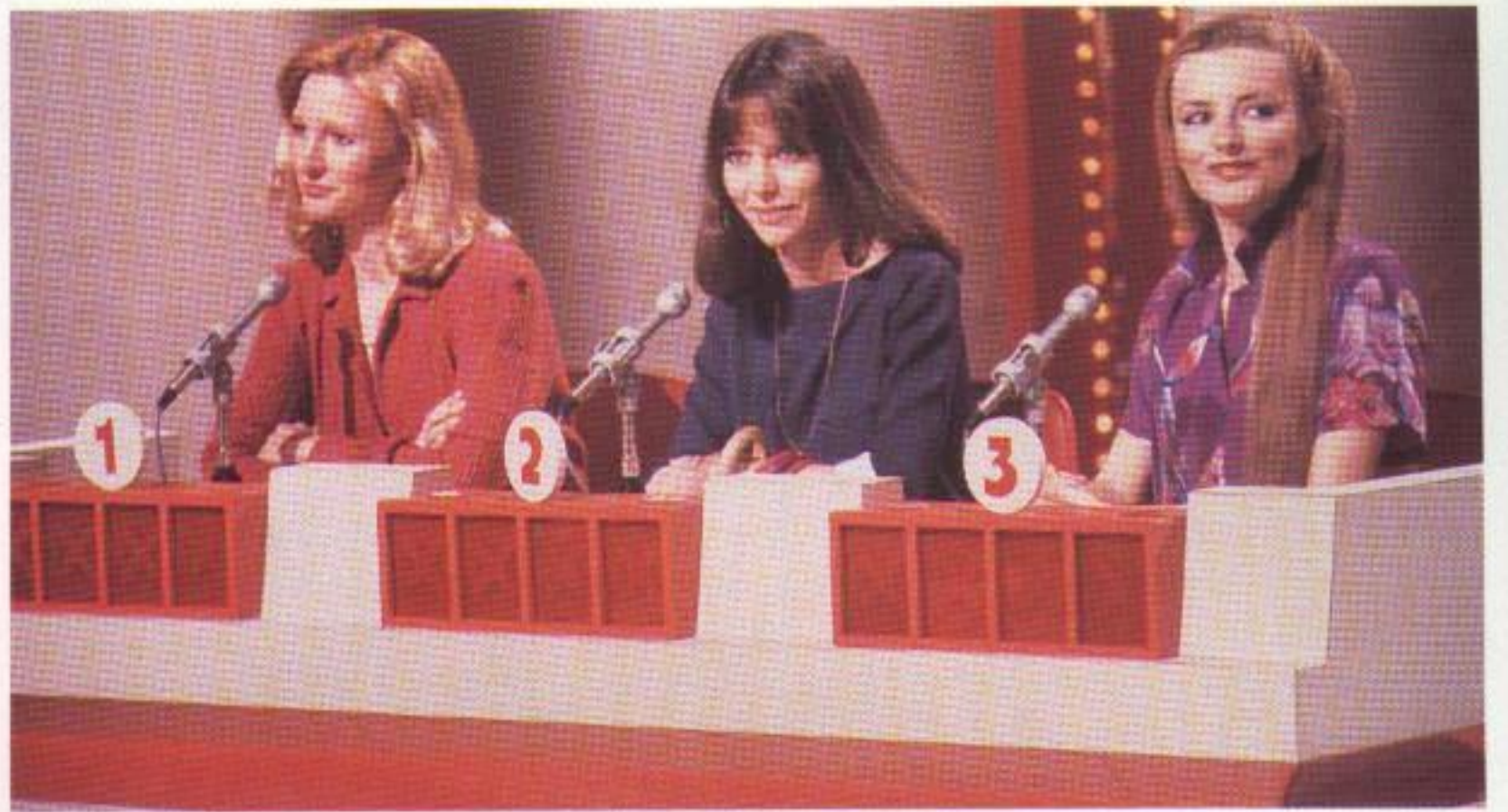


Chicago." It was the promotions she did as Chicago's Bunny of the Year in 1976 that set photographers and modeling agencies hot on her trail. "The best thing that happened to me after the PLAYBOY experience was my wedding," she says now. "My husband and I have a lovely home and we travel a lot. We've been back to Paris four times since our honeymoon there, and we've gone several times to Morocco, London and Spain. I would travel full time if I had the chance."

Miss September 1979 Vicki McCarty

She wangled an assignment from the *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner* to cover PLAYBOY's 25th Anniversary Playmate Search, pinned her Phi Beta Kappa key to her bikini bottom for luck and, to her surprise, found herself a genuine centerfold candidate. A summa cum laude graduate of the school of journalism of the University of California at Berkeley, Vicki earned an LL.B degree in public international law from Cambridge University in England (opposite) and a doctorate in jurisprudence from Hastings College of Law. She is a member in good standing of the California bar. For years she represented Playboy Enterprises Inc. in various capacities, among them hosting a popular Playboy TV show (and appearing on *To Tell the Truth*, opposite far right). Now married to a record industry mogul, she has four children (right) and is the author of Pocket Books' best-selling, and hilarious, *The Girlfriends' Guide to Pregnancy: Or Everything Your Doctor Won't Tell You*. (A sequel, *The Girlfriends' Guide to Surviving the First Year of Motherhood*, is due for publication in the winter of 1996.) Through it all, Vicki has retained her sense of humor, referring to herself as "the Playmate whose IQ was three times greater than her bustline measurement."

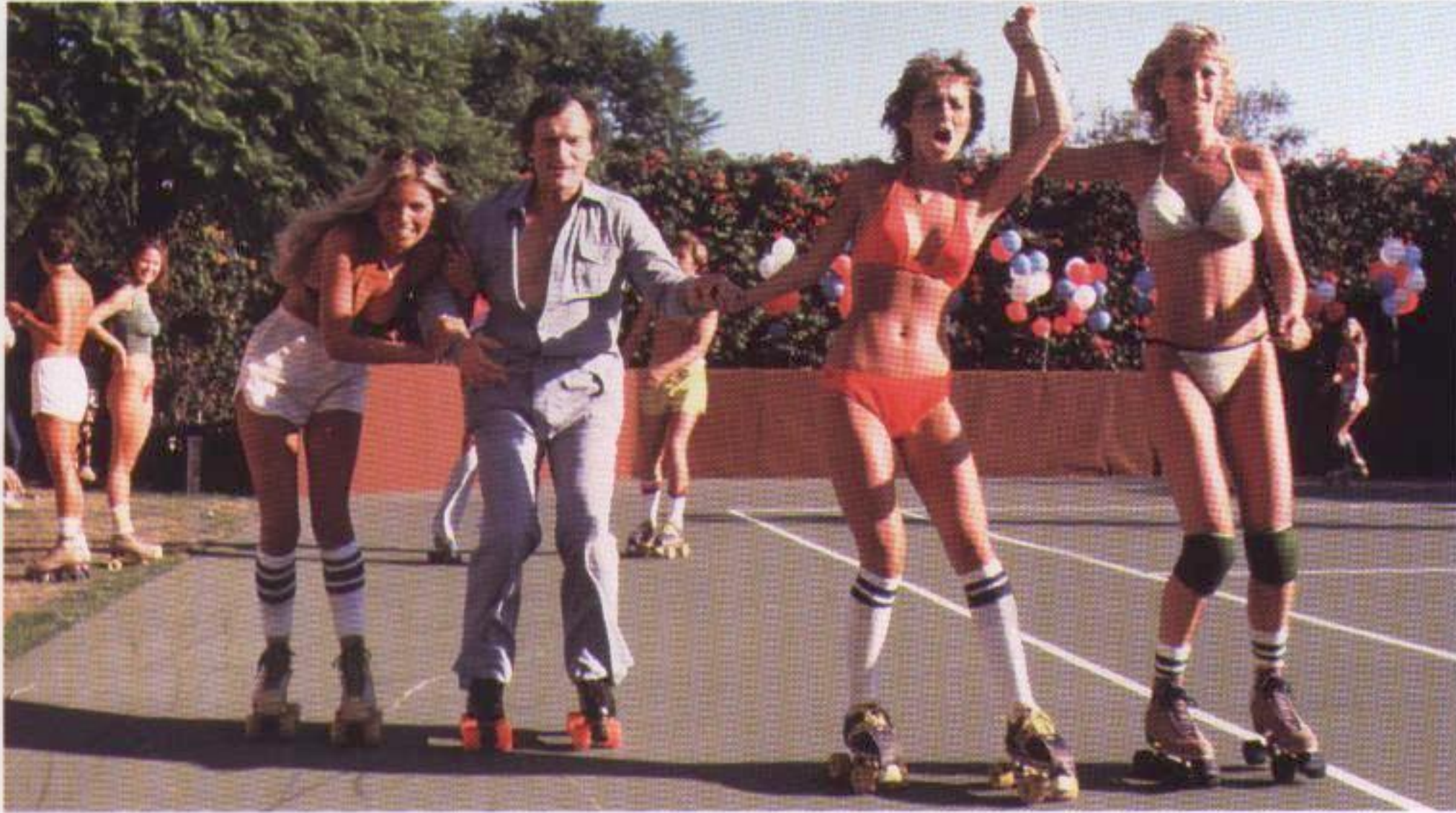




Playboy's Playmate Reunion

There had never been anything like it—a gathering of a quarter century's worth of PLAYBOY Playmates, all the guests of Hugh M. Hefner at Playboy Mansion West. More than a year in the planning, the event drew 136 Playmates, from Miss July 1954, Neva Gilbert, to Terri Welles, whose December 1980 centerfold was still in the future. Among those on hand: Janet Pilgrim (right), three-time Playmate of July 1955, December 1955 and October 1956. Below, Misses May 1967 Anne Randall, November 1960 Joni Mattis and May 1966 Dolly Read greet their host; below center, at left, September 1959 Playmate Marianne Gaba and April 1979's Missy Cleveland; at right, Hef and Miss February 1959 Eleanor Bradley. Bottom, from left: Playmates Lisa Sohm (April 1977) and Victoria Cooke (August 1980), Hef, Miss December 1979 Candace Collins and Terri Welles. At bottom right, Terri with Dorothy Stratten, Miss August 1979 and 1980's Playmate of the Year.





At top left, Playmates Gail Stanton (June 1978), Janis Schmitt (February 1978), Janet Quist (December 1978), and Lee Ann Michelle (February 1979); top right, September 1974 Playmate Kristine Hanson interviewing Hef for her Sacramento TV show. Above, Terri Welles, Hef, Candace Collins and Victoria Cooke on a roll; right, 1978 Playmates Karen Morton (July) and Rosanne Katon (September) renew their friendship. Below, Hef with Playmates of the Year. In the front row, from left, are Cyndi Wood (1974), Monique St. Pierre (1979), Debra Jo Fondren (1978), Liv Lindeland (1972), Linda Gamble (1961), behind them are Connie Kreski (1969), Claudia Jennings (1970), Lillian Müller (1976), Jo Collins (1965), Allison Parks (1966) and Lisa Baker (1967).





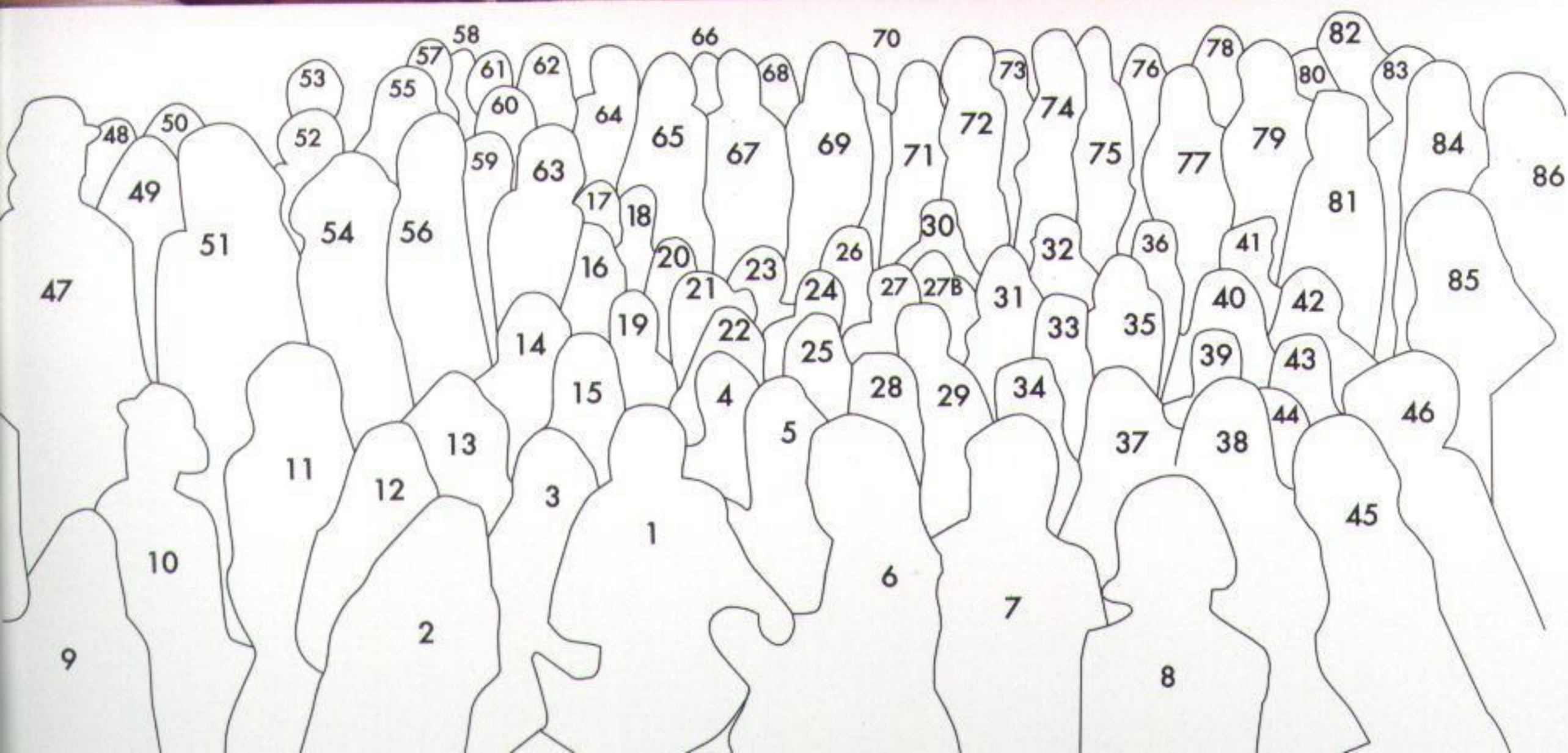
1. Hugh Hefner
2. Jill DeVries, Oct. 1975
3. Claudia Jennings, Nov. 1969
4. Dorothy Stratton, Aug. 1979
5. Connie Kreski, Jan. 1968
6. Linda Forsythe, Feb. 1970
7. Daina House, Jan. 1976
8. Julie Woodson, Apr. 1973
9. Christina Smith, Mar. 1978
10. Playmate Impostor*
11. Linda Gamble, Apr. 1960
12. Mickey Winters, Sep. 1962
13. Susan Bernard, Dec. 1966
14. Heather Ryan, July 1967
15. Monique St. Pierre, Nov. 1978

* Crashed Playmate Reunion
pretending to be Victoria Valentino

16. Louann Fernald, June 1979
17. Eleanor Bradley, Feb. 1959
18. Not identified
19. Not identified
20. Not identified
21. Rosanne Katon, Aug. 1978
22. Helena Antonaccio, June 1969
23. Denise Michele, Apr. 1976
24. Virve Reid, June 1977
25. Anne Randall, May 1967
26. Not identified
27. Bonnie Large, Mar. 1973
- 27B. Cyndi Wood, Feb. 1973
28. Not identified
29. Dianne Chandler, Sep. 1966
30. Not identified
31. Vicki Peters, Apr. 1972
32. Cathy Rowland, Aug. 1971

33. Not identified
34. Janice Pennington, May 1971
35. Not identified
36. Joni Mattis, Nov. 1960
37. Julia Lyndon, Aug. 1977
38. Bebe Buell, Nov. 1974
39. Kathryn Morrison, May 1978
40. Not identified
41. Not identified
42. Not identified
43. Not identified
44. Lee Ann Michelle, Feb. 1979
45. Marlene Morrow, Apr. 1974
46. Christine Maddox, Dec. 1973
47. Felicia Atkins, Apr. 1958
48. Not identified
49. Teddi Smith, July 1960
50. Not identified

51. Kristine Hanson, Sep. 1974
52. Not identified
53. Reagan Wilson, Oct. 1967
54. Azizi Johari, June 1975
55. Martha Thomsen, May 1980
56. Lillian Müller, Aug. 1975
57. Avis Miller, Nov. 1970
58. Not identified
59. Liv Lindeland, Jan. 1971
60. Sylvie Garant, Nov. 1979
61. Not identified
62. Janet Quist, Dec. 1978-
63. Marianne Gaba, Sep. 1959
64. Lisa Sohm, Apr. 1977
65. Not identified
66. Marcy Hanson, Oct. 1978
67. Candace Collins, Dec. 1979
68. Not identified



- 69. Not identified
- 70. DeDe Lind, Aug. 1967
- 71. Lorraine Michaels, Apr. 1981
- 72. Sharon Johanson, Oct. 1972
- 73. Miki Garcia, Jan. 1973
- 74. Nancy Harwood, Feb. 1968
- 75. Jo Collins, Dec. 1964
- 76. Not identified
- 77. Gail Stanton, Sep. 1978
- 78. Not identified
- 79. Candy Loving, Jan. 1979
- 80. Not identified
- 81. Gwen Wong, Apr. 1967
- 82. Janice Raymond, Dec. 1974
- 83. Nancy Scott, Mar. 1964
- 84. Liz Glazowski, Apr. 1980
- 85. Lisa Baker, Dec. 1966
- 86. Debra Jo Fondren, Sep. 1977



THE EIGHTIES





Miss January 1980

Gig Gangel

Gig, a Texas-born-and-bred beauty, posed for photographer Ken Marcus in a form-fitting outfit he designed especially for her (left). For the previous October's issue, she'd posed with *Playboy Interview* subject Burt Reynolds, only the second man to appear on the magazine's cover.

"I didn't think Burt was my type," Gig said afterward, "until I met him." She admitted to one main weakness: the beach. Gig ran five miles daily, on the sands of South Padre Island, where her picture story was shot.



Miss February 1980

Sandy Cagle

PLAYBOY's Japanese edition had already featured Sandy on four covers in one year by the time the magazine's U.S. editors caught on and made her their centerfold (above). A native of Wisconsin, she was last sighted in New England.

Previous spread: Marianne Gravatte, Miss October 1982 and 1983 Playmate of the Year.



Miss March 1980 *Henriette Allais*

Half-French, part-Cherokee, all-Southern, Henriette (below) ended a career as an orthodontist's assistant when modeling proved more appealing. A Playmate picture-story shooting always draws a crowd, as Arny Freytag and crew found when they posed Henriette in a Memphis park (above).



Miss April 1980 *Liz Glazowski*

Under "People you'd like to meet" on her Playmate Data Sheet, Liz (below) listed the Pope. She did get to wave at him in a parade. Today she works as a secretary and has deserted Illinois for Florida: "I've seen the last bit of snow I ever want to see."



PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN MARCUS *on*

LIZ GLAZOWSKI

Liz was a good Catholic girl from Chicago. While we were shooting her, the Pope was scheduled to come to town, so we tried to get a picture of her waving at him riding in his Pope-mobile. We got the parade route, set up cameras at four different angles and dressed Liz in bright red so we'd be sure to see her. We had Kodak stay open that night to develop our four rolls of film. At two o'clock in the morning we met in the Playboy Building to look at the film. And in every frame, there was the Pope looking good, lots of people smiling—and one girl in red, waving, but with her arm across her face.

Miss May 1980 *Martha Thomsen*

PLAYBOY discovered Martha (right), then a coed at Washington State University, on a *Girls of the Pac 10* search in 1978. She left for Manhattan and became a flight attendant for Eastern Airlines. "Right after my centerfold, I signed with Elite modeling agency and went to Europe for a couple of years," she says. "Then I changed to Wilhelmina for about ten years, and eventually switched to Ford. I had a very successful career in ads and commercials." Married since 1983, Martha has two sons and recently moved from Manhattan to a New Jersey horse farm.

Miss June 1980

Ola Ray

As Miss June, Ola listed Michael Jackson as her favorite entertainer.

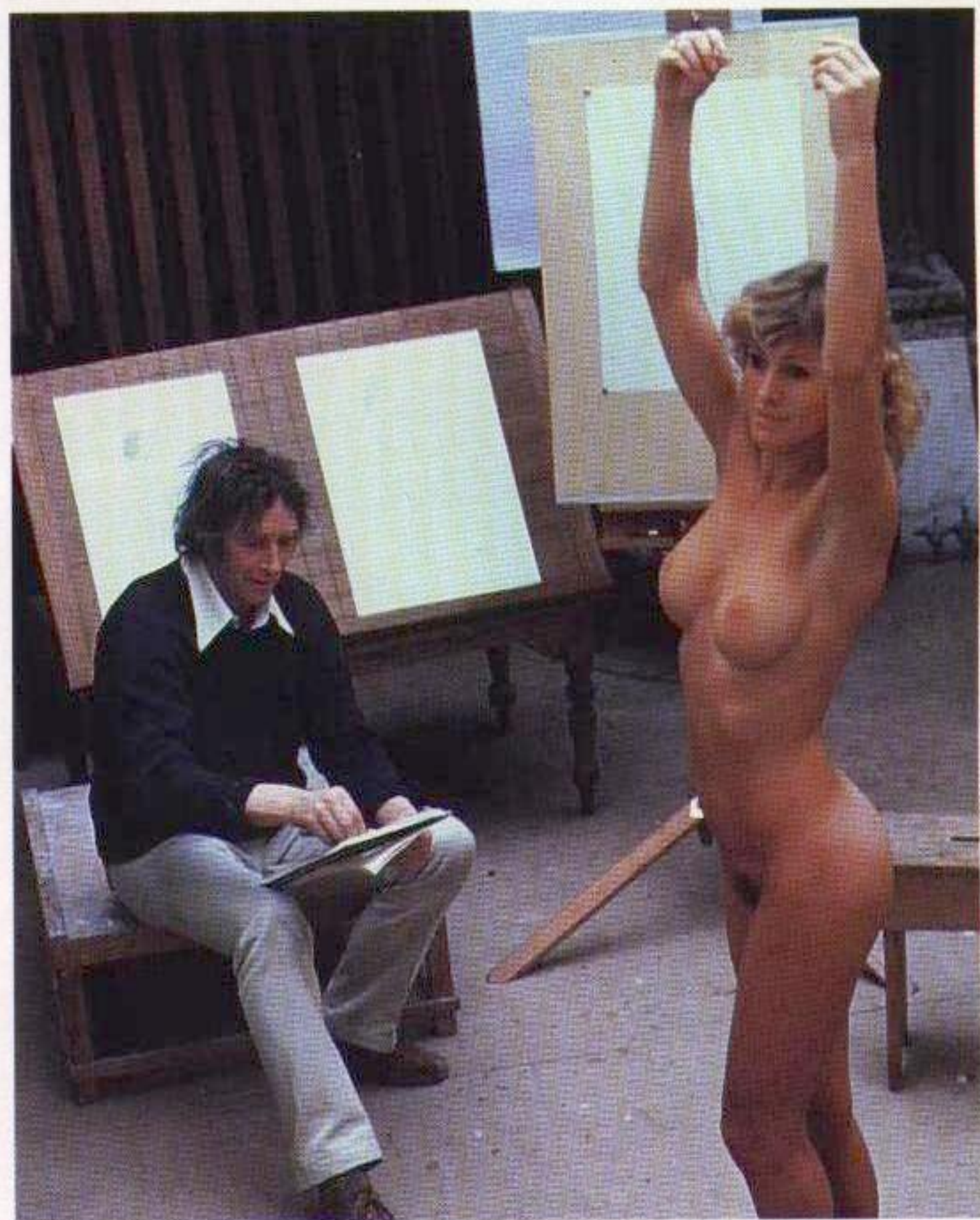
Two years later she starred as the target of terror in the gloved one's 1982 *Thriller* video (right)—and went on to appear in such hit movies as *48 Hours* with Eddie Murphy (below right). Today she has a little girl, a year old, "and I'm doing great."

As for her PLAYBOY experience, she remembers it fondly. "PLAYBOY was the best thing that ever happened to me."



Miss July 1980
Teri Peterson

She fulfilled her ambition to become a working model, doing catalogs for everything from swimwear to workout gear. "Then I got into acting—I was a sheriff's deputy in *Prime Target* with Tony Curtis and a bad guy's girlfriend in *Trackdown*, so I got to play on both sides of the law—and did tons of stage plays in Venice, North Hollywood, Hollywood and Santa Barbara." On the set of *Trackdown*, Teri (right) met actor Kevin Keresey; they've been married six years. She does personal training and "we've just started a kung fu class with 25 students at a studio in Venice."



Miss August 1980
Victoria Cooke

Britain's David Wynne chose Victoria (left) as the model for his sculpture at the entrance of PLAYBOY's ill-fated Atlantic City casino, and she spent six weeks posing for him at his Wimbledon studio (above). Married and the mother of three, Victoria lives in Florida, where she teaches exercise classes and owns a company specializing in adventure travel packages.

PLAYBOY STAFFER

JAMES R. PETERSEN on

VICTORIA COOKE

I think she was the first really athletic Playmate we ever had with that kind of muscle tone. She was certainly one of the tallest. She taught an exercise class across Sunset Boulevard from the Playboy Building in Los Angeles, so you could look across the street and see Playmates exercising.

Miss September 1980 *Lisa Welch*

"If it hadn't been for PLAYBOY," says Lisa (below), "I never would have come to L.A. from Marin County and met my husband on a blind date." That led in turn to Lisa's having six children—"three stepkids in their 20s and three of my own, nine, seven and four"—and moving to an avocado ranch that has been the location for movies, television (*Dynasty*, *Falcon Crest*) and not a few celebrity weddings. Today (inset) she likes to hand-tint greeting cards, "mostly photos of my children," and is training for a black belt in karate.



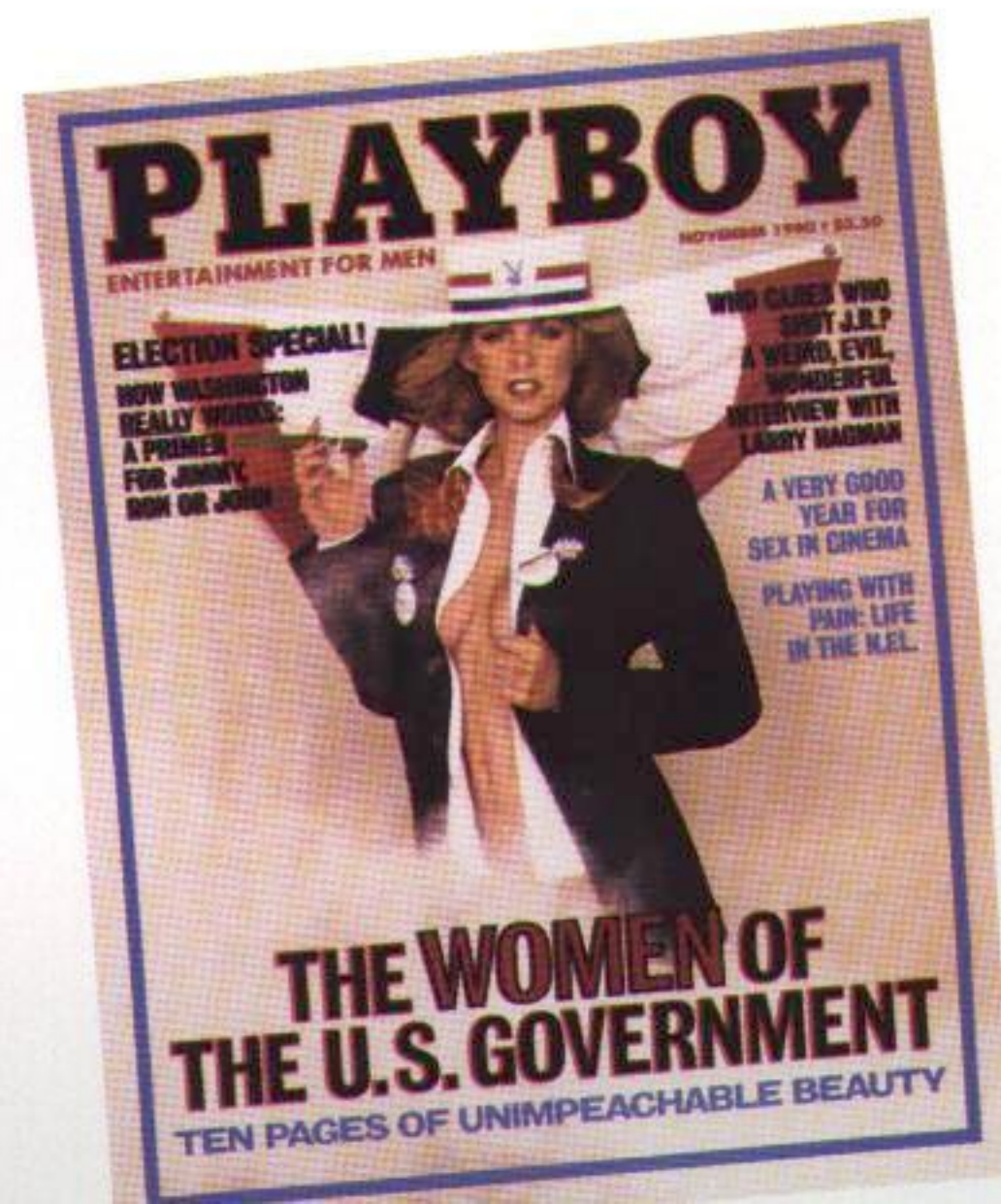
MARLENE JANSSEN (Miss November 1982) on LISA WELCH

Lisa has a fabulous house on about 650 acres. Unbelievable. And to think of the days when she and I used to eat Top Ramen noodles so we could travel around Europe on the old Eurailpass. We would come back so broke that she'd have to sleep on my couch.



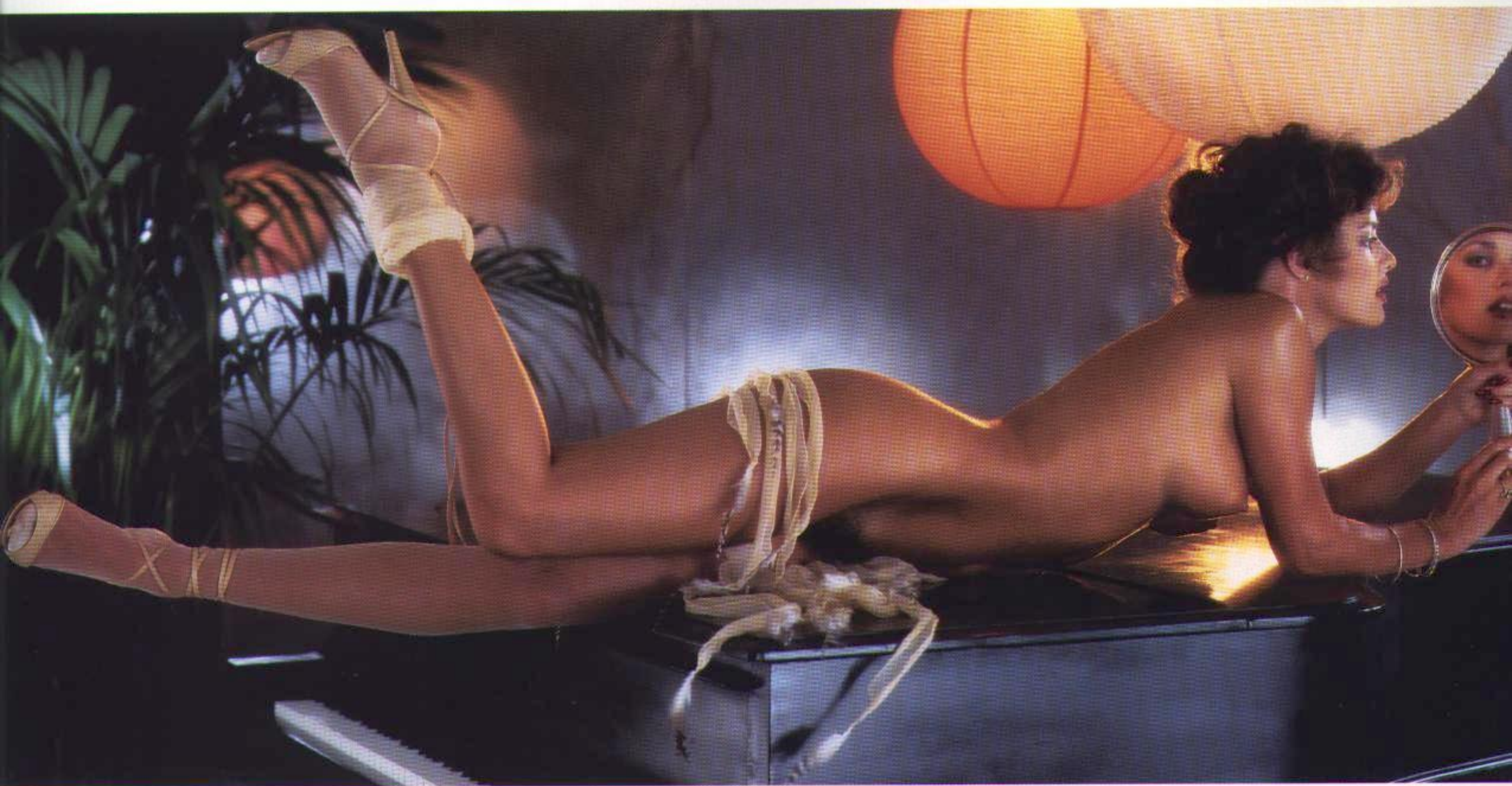
Miss October 1980 *Mardi Jacquet*

Born in France, Mardi (above) was adopted by an American doctor and his wife and raised with four stepbrothers on a ranch in California. Striking out on her own, she headed for Arizona, where she detailed cars, cleaned apartments and worked on an Arabian-horse ranch. The month after her centerfold she appeared on the cover (below).



Miss November 1980
Jeana Tomasino

These days Jeana spends a lot of time on Interstate 405. "I have three children, one of them a model and actress—Cara's the little girl with the monkey at the end of *Outbreak*—and I drive her up from Orange County to L.A. quite a bit. My sons do commercials, too." Once an actress-model-singer herself, Jeana appeared in *History of the World Part 1* with Mel Brooks (bottom left) and with the Singing Playmates (in the shot at right, she's with Sondra Theodore, Rosanne Katon and Terri Welles). At bottom right, she's in makeup with Michael Trikilis and Hef behind the scenes of ABC-TV's special *Playboy's Roller Disco and Pajama Party*. Jeana has been married for ten years to ex-baseball player Matt Keough, who works as a scout and coach for the Angels.





Miss December 1980

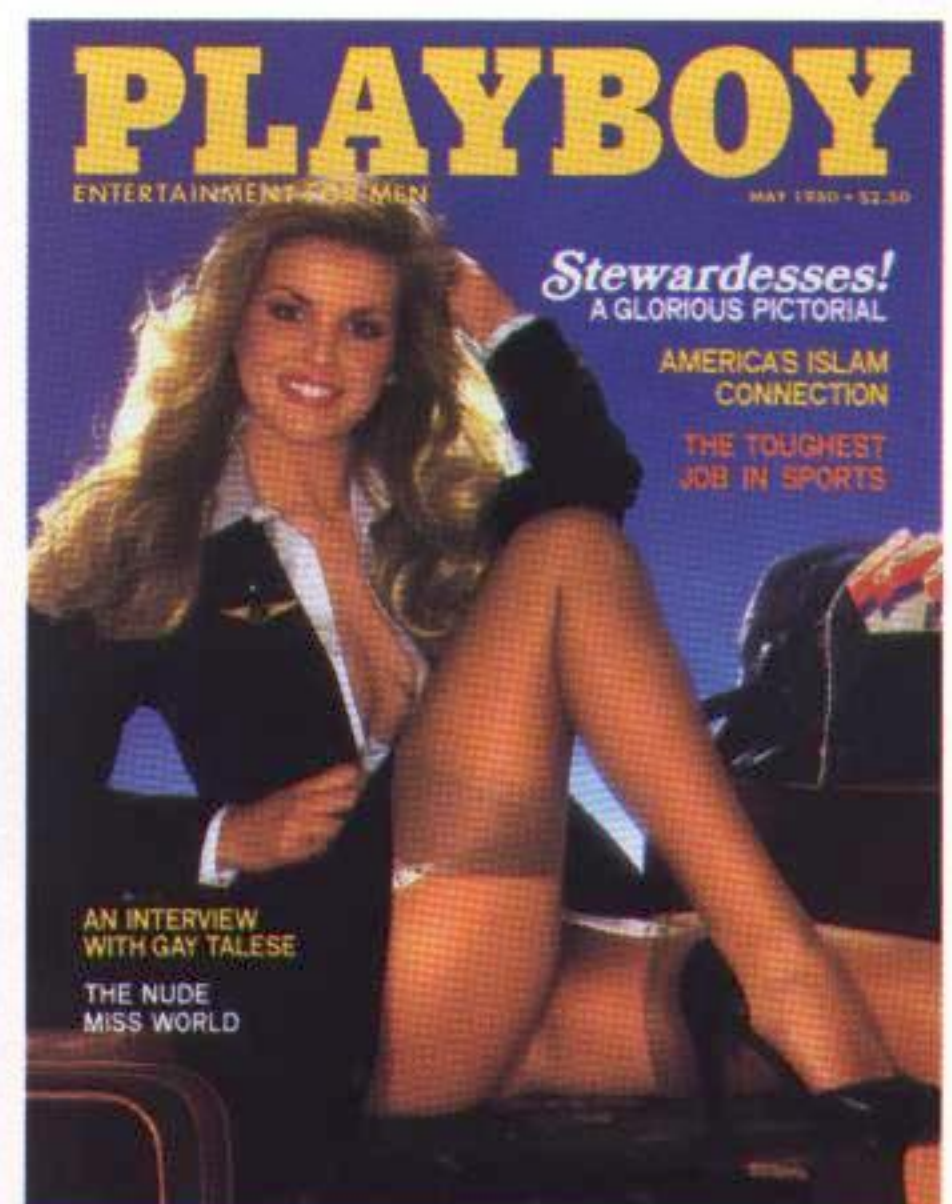
Terri Welles

1981 Playmate of the Year

Fans who looked closely at one scene in *The Firm* recognized Gene Hackman's dancing partner, 1981 PMOY Terri Welles. Terri did a good deal of movie work right after her centerfold appearance, roomed with Playmates Candy Loving and Sondra Theodore



(below) and married hockey player Charlie Simmer in 1981. Though their partnership ended in divorce, it produced a daughter, now 13, who "wants to be a Playmate when she's old enough," says her mother (today, inset).





Miss January 1981

Karen Price

She was one of the most active participants in the *Dear Playmates* advice-to-readers column and for a while worked as a stunt-woman, but so far as Karen (left and right) is concerned, that was then, this is now. She's married, has a child and lives in California.

PLAYBOY STAFFER

WALTER LOWE *on*

VICKI LASSETER

Vicki, a perennial entrant in wet T-shirt contests, was a big, strong country girl, fun to hang out with. She challenged me to a bout of arm wrestling, and although I beat her, I was surprised at how strong she was.



Miss February 1981

Vicki Lasseter

"I traveled a lot for about five years after my centerfold, working for PLAYBOY and for Michelob Light," remembers Vicki (left). "The travel was the worst and the best of it. A lot of people dream about being a Playmate: I'm glad I got to see the grass on both

sides of the fence." Now living in Texas (where her husband books talent for Six Flags Over Texas and "the world's largest honky-tonk, Billy Bob's nightclub in Fort Worth"), Vicki describes herself as a stay-at-home mom to her four-year-old daughter (inset).



Miss March 1981 *Kymerly Herrin*

This popular model and two-time PLAYBOY cover girl (right) had a high-profile role in *Romancing the Stone* as the heroine of Kathleen Turner's bodice-ripping novel. Since then she has been working in telemarketing and has become a dedicated runner and sailor, having cruised around the Caribbean to Venezuela, Panama and various islands with her boyfriend of eight years, ex-charter captain Dan McKeon.



Miss April 1981

Lorraine Michaels

The mother of two, Lorraine (above) is vice president of her children's school and an active volunteer for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation. She's also enrolled in writing courses at UCLA and is about to become a published author. "I'm doing a kind of humorous handbook of the dos and don'ts of dating after divorce," she says. "I'm very active sports-wise, too. I ski, water ski, river raft, bike, hike, swim and fish."

PLAYBOY STAFFER

JAMES R. PETERSEN *on*

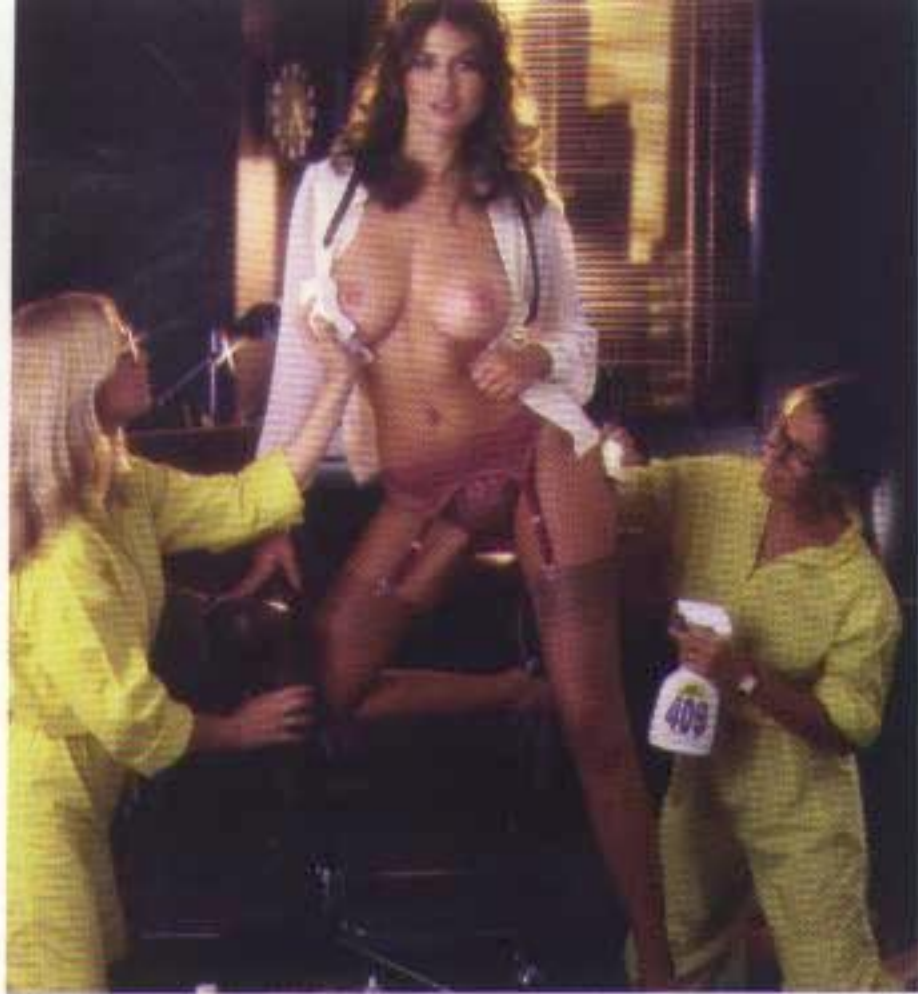
LORRAINE MICHAELS

Lorraine is my personal favorite all-time Playmate. She was the only Playmate who showed me her world. She took me to a hockey game and had the L.A. Kings announce, "Welcome, Jim Petersen." She was a celebrity in that world before she became a Playmate. She had a spark and a character and a kindness and a confidence that you didn't normally run into.

Miss May 1981 *Gina Goldberg*

"I just got back to Los Angeles after singing on tour in Europe, 30-minute sets twice a night, in different clubs throughout Scandinavia and Germany," Gina reports. "And tomorrow I'm leaving for Las Vegas to meet with some agents." A native of Finland, Gina (below) says, "Glamour photography is right up my alley. I love cheesecake modeling."





Miss June 1981 *Cathy Larmouth*

"A riches-to-rags saga" is how Cathy describes her life after PLAYBOY (at left she gets a scrubdown from Playmate/stylist Connie Kreski). About six months after her centerfold appearance, she met songwriter Michael Dees—"the best singer I've ever heard and the funniest human being I've ever known." They were married in 1983 and, Cathy says, life was grand. "We had a daughter, Hayley, who's 12 now, and my older daughter from a brief teenage marriage came to live with us. I spent my days laughing and being a gourmet cook." Then financial reverses took a toll; the couple began to quarrel and divorced in 1990. Her home and savings disappeared in a series of ATM and check forgeries, her car was stolen and a ruptured breast implant resulted in medical problems. Cathy is still having difficulties finding a bright side to all this, but she's trying. One thing that helps: writing poems and short stories.



Miss July 1981 *Heidi Sorenson*

Discovered by photo scout Ken Honey in a Vancouver bikini contest, Heidi (above) appeared in a batch of movies, including *Roxanne*, *Spies Like Us* and the made-for-TV *Sunset Limousine*, with John Ritter, and "at least a dozen TV shows," among them *General Hospital* and *The Young and the Restless*. Married for eight years to music-

video producer Jeffrey Kinart (inset), Heidi is now writing for television, films and CD-ROM movies. "When I told my mother I was going into writing, she said she'd always known I would. Then she handed me a big stack of little novelettes, stories and mini-screenplays that I'd written when I was six or seven. Some of them were actually pretty good!"



Miss August 1981

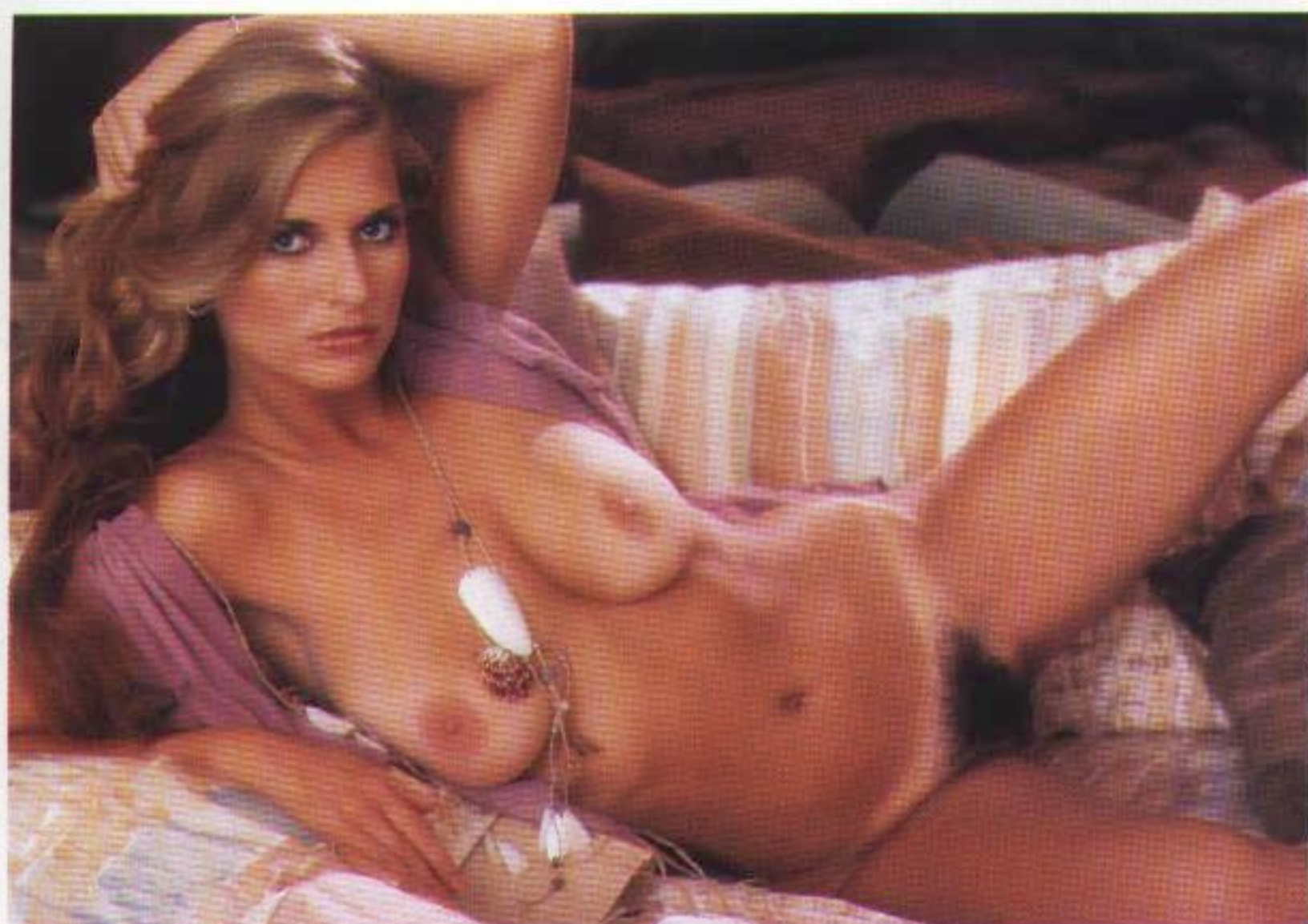
Debbie Boostrom

Back in Florida, the state where she grew up—and where her Playmate test (right) was shot—Debbie (below) is recovering from a divorce after her nine-year marriage to a Kansas beer distributor and is launching a career in infomercials and jewelry design. Through all this, she says, "PLAYBOY has been like my family. Hef is one of the nicest people I've ever known. There's nothing he ever says that he doesn't stand behind."



Miss September 1981 *Susan Smith*

Discovered while shooting the February 1979 feature *The Girls of Las Vegas*, where she had worked as a car hiker and golf caddie, Susan (below) was a karate expert who doubled as a Los Angeles model. Although wrestling wasn't her forte, she agreed to compete in a bout against comic Andy Kaufman at Playboy's Atlantic City Hotel and Casino. *We Wuz Robbed!* (PLAYBOY, February 1982) chronicled the hotly disputed results, which left Kaufman in possession of his title as intergender wrestling champion of the world.



Miss October 1981 *Kelly Tough*

As a Playmate, Kelly (below) got by with more than a little help from her friends. Vancouver high school chum Dorothy Stratten urged her to pose. At Playboy Mansion West, Sondra Theodore became her closest girlfriend. Soon she was chosen to join the Singing Playmates, who appeared in many venues, including a 1981 George Burns special on NBC. Today, she lives in Vancouver.



Miss December 1981 *Patricia Farinelli*

Pasta preparation with her mother, Clementina, was a feature of Patti's Playmate pictorial, labeled *Abbondanza!* (above).

"I never was a silicone girl," Patti now asserts, perhaps unnecessarily. Looking back, Patti says she didn't make all she could have out of her PLAYBOY career. "After my centerfold, to be honest with you, I was partying a lot. Now I've turned my whole life over to the Lord, and I've never been happier. I have a little boy, who's a blessing from God, and a wonderful man in my life. We'll probably be married within the year."

Miss November 1981
Shannon Tweed
1982 Playmate of the Year

Unbelievably, Shannon's Playmate tests were rejected by PLAYBOY.

It took a boost from the Canadian TV show *Thrill of a Lifetime* to do the trick. "Until then, Hef kept turning my pictures down," she says. Once he met the statuesque Newfoundlander, it was a done deal: She became Hefner's girlfriend in residence, and Playmate of the Year for 1982. She also posed for legendary photographer George Hurrell (top near and far right). Today she's famous as "queen of the erotic thrillers." In June 1995 a *Variety* story reported that Shannon and bassist Gene Simmons of the rock group Kiss were married, living quietly with their two children and raking in millions. Only partly true, says Shannon.

"Making millions we do, married we aren't. Neither one of us has ever been married." They do have a seven-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter. Shannon and Gene met a dozen years ago at a Midsummer Night's Dream party at Playboy Mansion West. They've been together ever since. "Actually, the night I met him was the last time I ever had a drink. He's the squarest guy in the whole world. That shows you how deceptive appearances can be. Gene has never tried drugs in all his life.

As for me, I say skip the wine, eat the pie. My latest vice is sweets." The star of more than 30 movies, Shannon recently guest-starred on *Frasier* and *Married...With Children*—on the former as a sexy psychiatrist, on the latter as her own Playmate persona. There was her appearance with shock jock Howard Stern, who asked her to comment on Hef's sexual endowments:

"Then of course he asked me about Gene, and I said, 'Who cares? The size of his tongue makes up for everything.'"

Shannon was actually more annoyed by a question posed by a *Premiere* interviewer, who asked if she wouldn't rather do movies her children could watch. "Should I do one where I kill 20 people? They were trying to make me feel guilty about what I do. How could I do a love scene when I have children? Well, how do they think I got the children?"

HEF

on

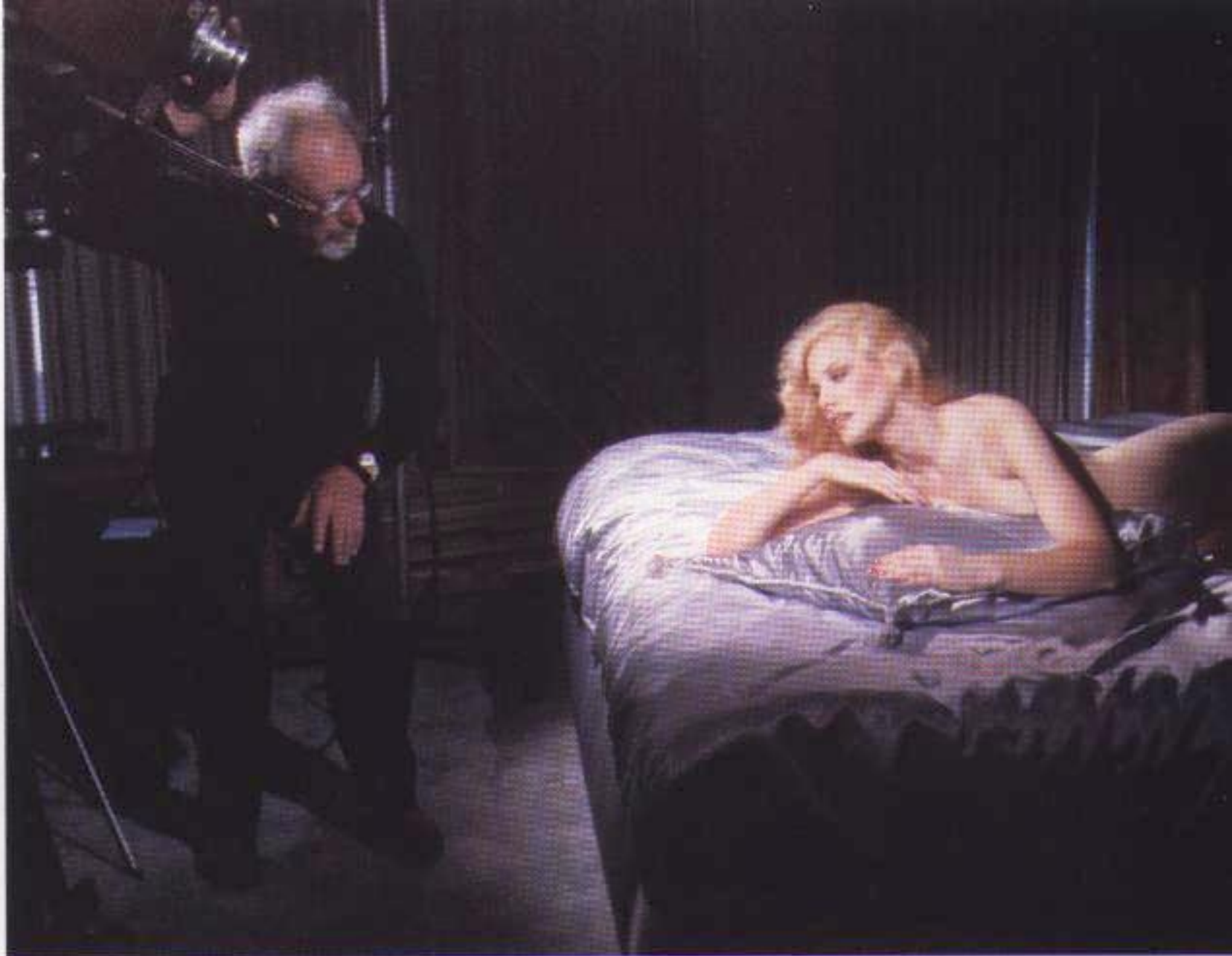
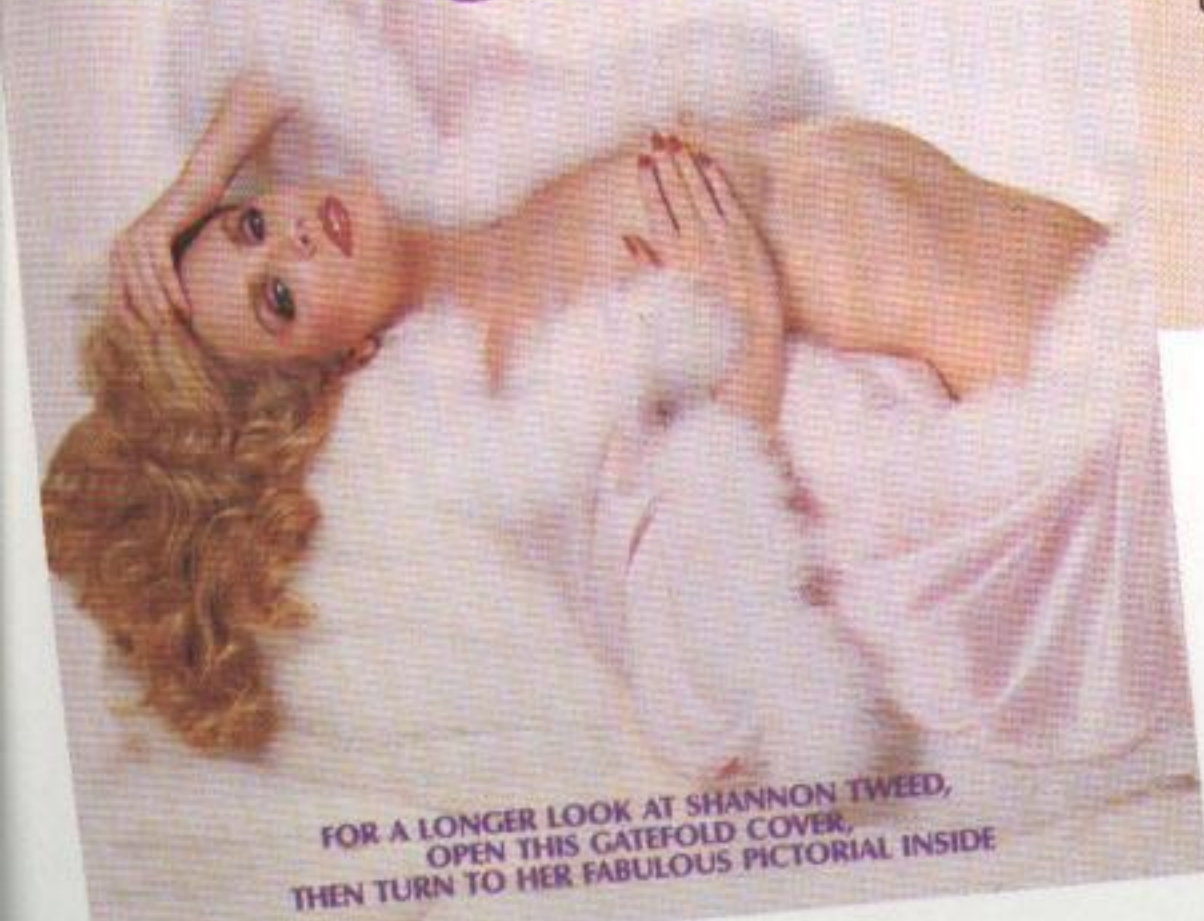
SHANNON TWEED

Shannon is a super lady. She reminds me of Burma in Milton Caniff's comic strip *Terry and the Pirates*. She was my main squeeze for a couple of years, and her acting career began with her appearance in PLAYBOY. Shannon

was here during the swinging years, and now we both have children enrolled in the same grade school. She and Gene are our close friends, and we see them at school functions and at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Playboy Mansion West.

PLAYBOY
ENTERTAINMENT FOR MEN
JUNE 1982

Playmate
of the Year





PLAYBOY STAFFER

KEVIN COOK *on*

SHANNON TWEED

Shannon is terrific. She has a great smile and a lusty laugh. She was the first Playmate I interviewed. I went to Toronto to meet her. We were both 24 years old and really excited. We went to eat at the top of the CN Tower, and it was my first exposure to the Playmate phenomenon that really does occur when you go into a restaurant. Conversation tends to stop when it's someone who looks like Shannon and is almost six feet tall. When the interview was over she had to lean down to kiss me on the cheek.

ROCK STAR

GENE SIMMONS *on*

SHANNON TWEED

Shannon is the queen of all the ages. The main thing is, we never fight. I've been through a lot, with the rock thing and all that, and basically I don't take anything from anybody. But for some reason she gets away with it. I'll say something, and she'll say, "Shhhh...quiet. Quiet." And I don't think twice about it. [Rolls eyes.] It isn't a blow to my ego at all. It really doesn't affect me.





Miss January 1982 *Kimberly McArthur*

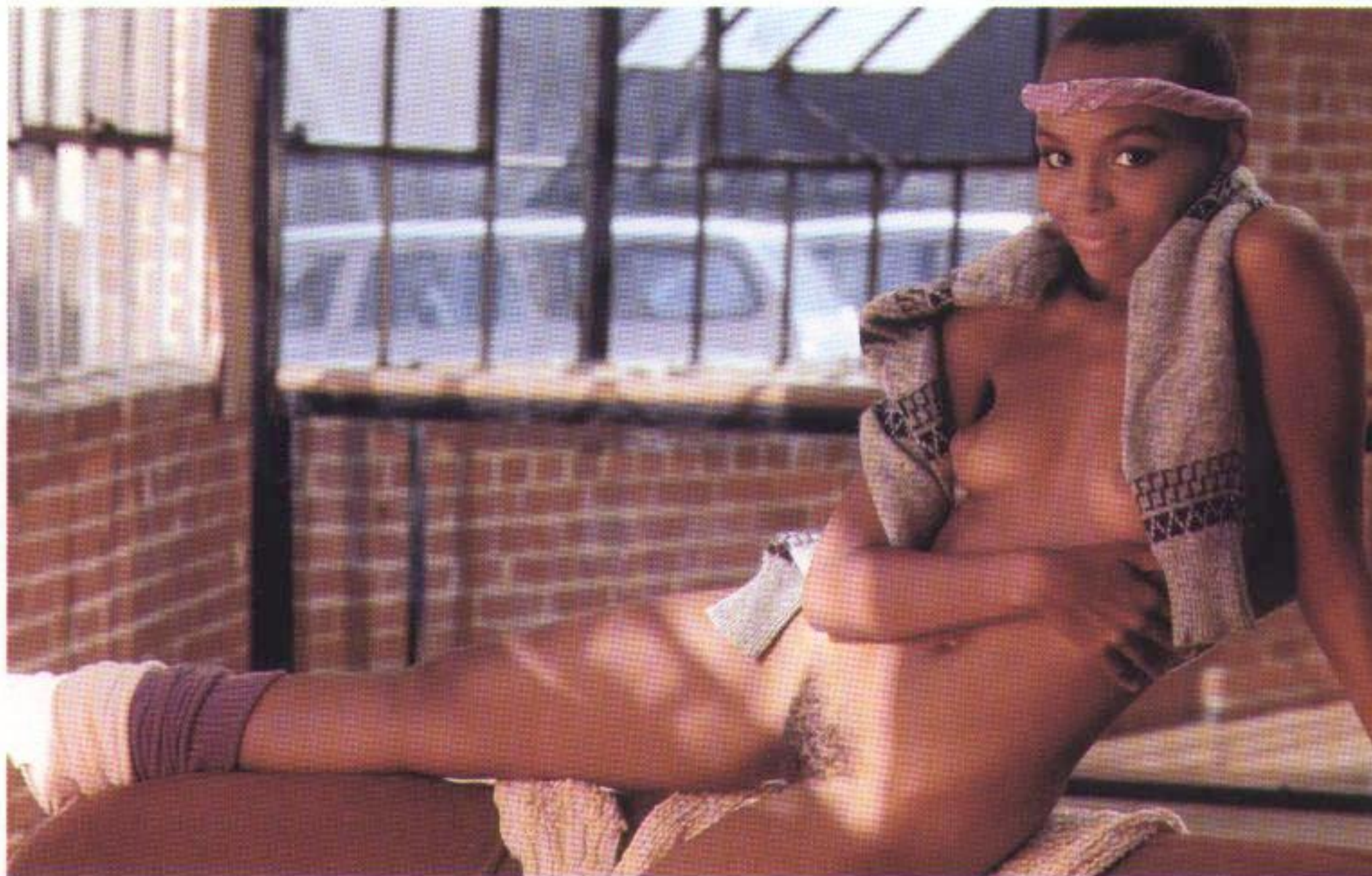
She made the final 50 in the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders tryouts, but lost out, she says, because "I didn't kick high enough." Ditching Texas for Hollywood, Kimberly (top and, putting on war paint for a *Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll* video, above) became a three-time PLAYBOY cover girl and was featured in *Young Doctors in Love*, with Dabney Coleman, and *Easy Money*, with Rodney Dangerfield.

Miss February 1982

Anne-Marie Fox

When she posed for PLAYBOY, Anne-Marie (right) was a dancer and exercise instructor who had her sights set on fashion modeling and architecture. She turned instead to journalism—earning a degree from Columbia University—and is now a freelance photographer in New York. "What I love to do most is travel photography, photojournalistic stuff," she says, "but I've been very lucky with getting my portraits of actors and other personalities published."

Anne-Marie's photos have appeared in the *British Esquire*, *French Premiere*, *Mademoiselle* and JFK Jr.'s *George*.



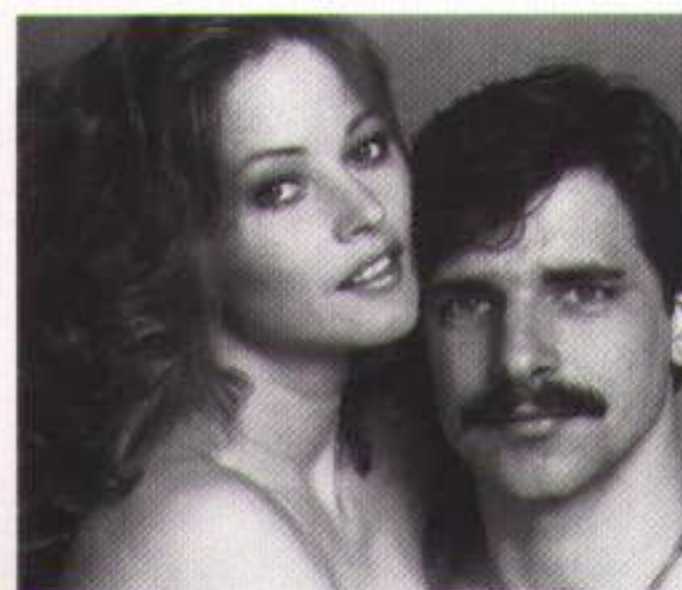
Miss March 1982 *Karen Witter*

Karen (below) has been working steadily ever since becoming a Playmate. "I was studying psychophysiology in college when I did PLAYBOY, but after my centerfold I started being offered acting roles, so I decided to take lessons—and just loved it. I was on *One Life to Live* for three and a half years, and I've just started a new Showtime series called *Bedtime*." Fans from her past occasionally surprise Karen. "When I auditioned for *X-Files*, Chris Carter, who created the show, said, 'Aren't you Karen Witter?' and I said, 'How did you know that?' and he said, 'Weren't you in PLAYBOY?' My jaw just drops when that happens."



Miss April 1982 *Linda Rhys Vaughn*

For most Playmates, the idea of a fan tracking her down is a scary one. It turned out OK for Linda (above), who married the guy who saw her video, recognized the small town she lived in, drove up there and introduced himself to her mom as a prospective horse buyer. "They did a TV movie about us called *I Married a Centerfold*, with Tim Daly playing my husband and Teri Copley playing me, which was kind of a stretch." Linda and Walt (inset) are still married—"just celebrated year 13, and he's truly my Prince Charming." With their son and daughter they live on 15 acres in Idaho, where they've started their own drafting company.



Miss May 1982 *Kym Malin*

"Since I was in *PLAYBOY*, my life has been filled with wonderful events," Kym (below) reports. "I've traveled all over the world, and been treated like royalty on promotions. I learned Formula Four auto racing because of *PLAYBOY*. I've acted in several blockbuster films, worked as a stuntwoman, produced shows and had my own talent agency." The blockbusters were *Die Hard*, *Beverly Hills Cop II* and *Weird Science*—"I was the one who got sucked up the chimney, and I did all my own stunts"—but it's Kym's first film, *Joysticks*, that has become a cult fave. Her Hollywood career came to a halt when she got engaged to Mickey Hargitay Jr.—himself the son of a Playmate, Jayne Mansfield—who hated show business. "He wanted me to come sell houseplants with him. I stayed four and a half years and ran his greenhouse. We broke it off two weeks before the actual wedding, and I moved back to Mom and Dallas where I became a single mother." Son Kyle is two, and Kym—once more in California—is a full-time student at a community college.



Miss June 1982 *Lourdes Estores*

Lourdes Ann Kananimanu Estores (above) was discovered as one of *The Girls of Hawaii* (August 1980). Shortly after her Playmate appearance, Lourdes got a job as a legislative assistant to Hawaii State Representative Norma Wong (inset). Today, she lives in California with "my husband, who's my very best friend, and my three-year-old, who's my best girlfriend." Lourdes has been a Delta flight attendant for ten years and was one of 96 of the airline's employees

nominated to be an Olympic torchbearer. "I've come a long way since being a Playmate," she says. "Becoming a mom puts everything in perspective. In my Playmate video, I played the piano. Now I'm starting to pick it up again.

My daughter and I play little duets. *Chopsticks* works great!"





Miss August 1982 *Cathy St. George*

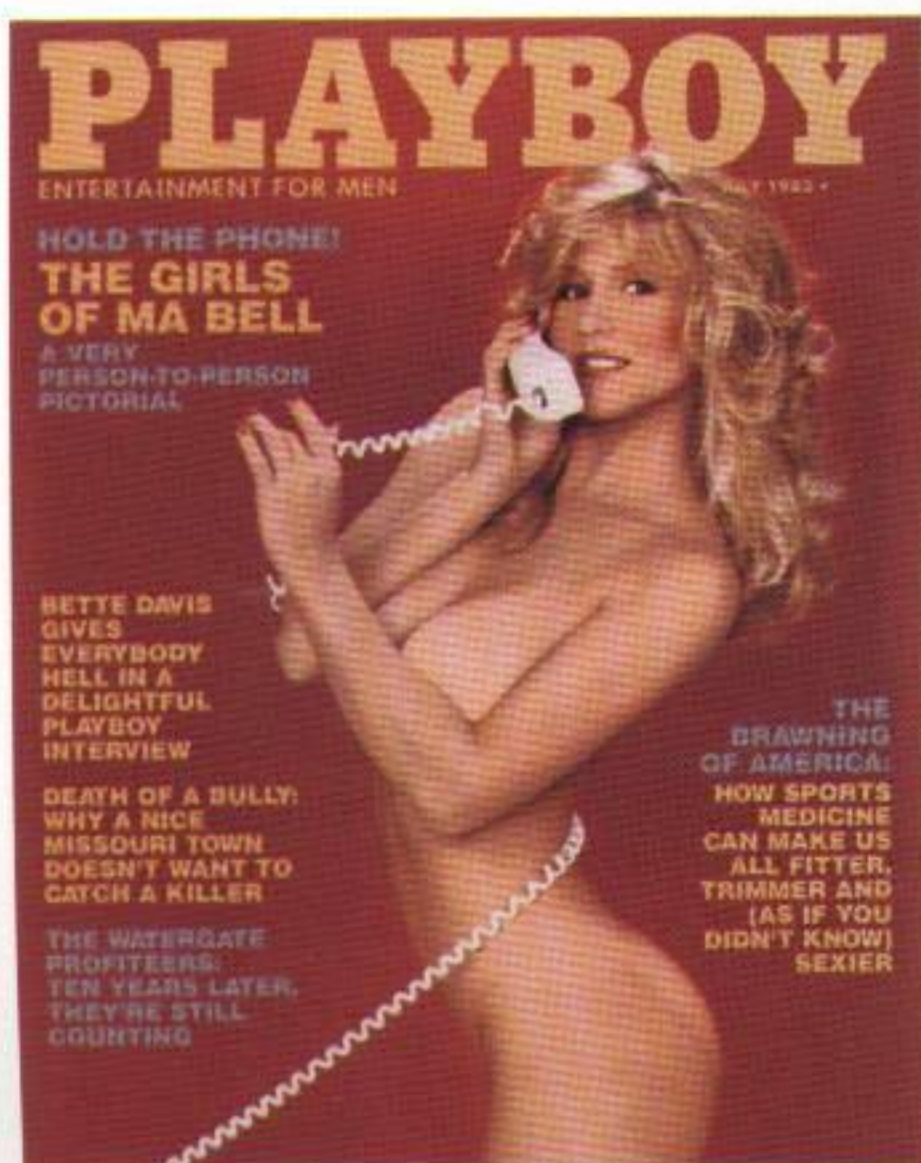
She showed up as a cover girl aspirant and just happened to mention that she did makeup. Hired on the spot, Cathy (below) was makeup artist for a host of Playmates (and also got her cover, on the October 1981 issue. Ten months later she was a centerfold). "I still do makeup," Cathy says today, "for some really big clients: Michael Crawford, Bill Murray. I also produce junkets for Warner Bros. and I've worked with Cathy Smith on her aerobics videos for five or six years." She appeared in a number of movies and TV shows but preferred television hosting (*Hollywood Style* and *Rich and Single*). Although she concentrates on making others look beautiful, she still looks great herself.



Miss July 1982

Lynda Wiesmeier

Born in Washington, D.C., Lynda (above) lived in Germany (where her father was an Air Force doctor), New Jersey, Washington State and Southern California, where she was working as receptionist for a group of dermatologists when PLAYBOY discovered her. After appearing as a cover girl (below), in several PLAYBOY videos and films by the Malibu Bay team of Andy and Arlene Sidaris, Lynda exchanged Los Angeles for Louisiana.



Miss September 1982 *Connie Brighton*

Connie (above) had a stage mom who put her into a dance school when she was three. "I had my own little solo act in a Miami Beach hotel when I was seven. I think my mother must have had a very frustrated performer inside her." Connie's showbiz background helped when she became a professional singer, a model and vice president of a Florida entertainment promotion firm.

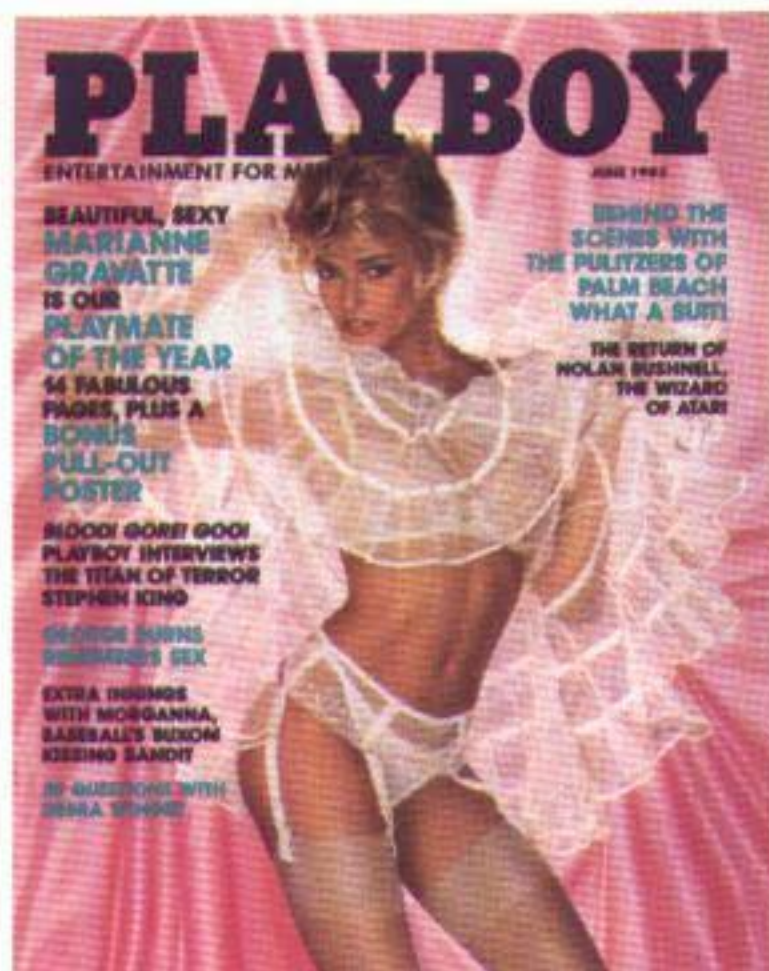


Miss October 1982

Marianne Gravatte

1983 Playmate of the Year

Today's PLAYBOY staffers agree: No centerfold they knew was ever as shy as Marianne Gravatte. "She was a great interview one on one," says Public Relations Director Elizabeth Norris, "but in front of the microphone or in a group, she just froze." Photographer Richard Fegley confirms: "She could hardly look at somebody and say hello." Becoming PMOY probably helped her overcome her diffidence. For the past ten years, Marianne and her husband have owned a popular sports bar in Huntington Beach, California. She worked there until the birth of her third son, when she decided the hassle of getting sitters wasn't worth it. "Here I am with my three sons, like the sitcom. The little neighbor girl is our part-time daughter." These days Marianne spends a good deal of time volunteering with the PTA. "Schools," she says, "are largely what parents put into them."





Miss November 1982

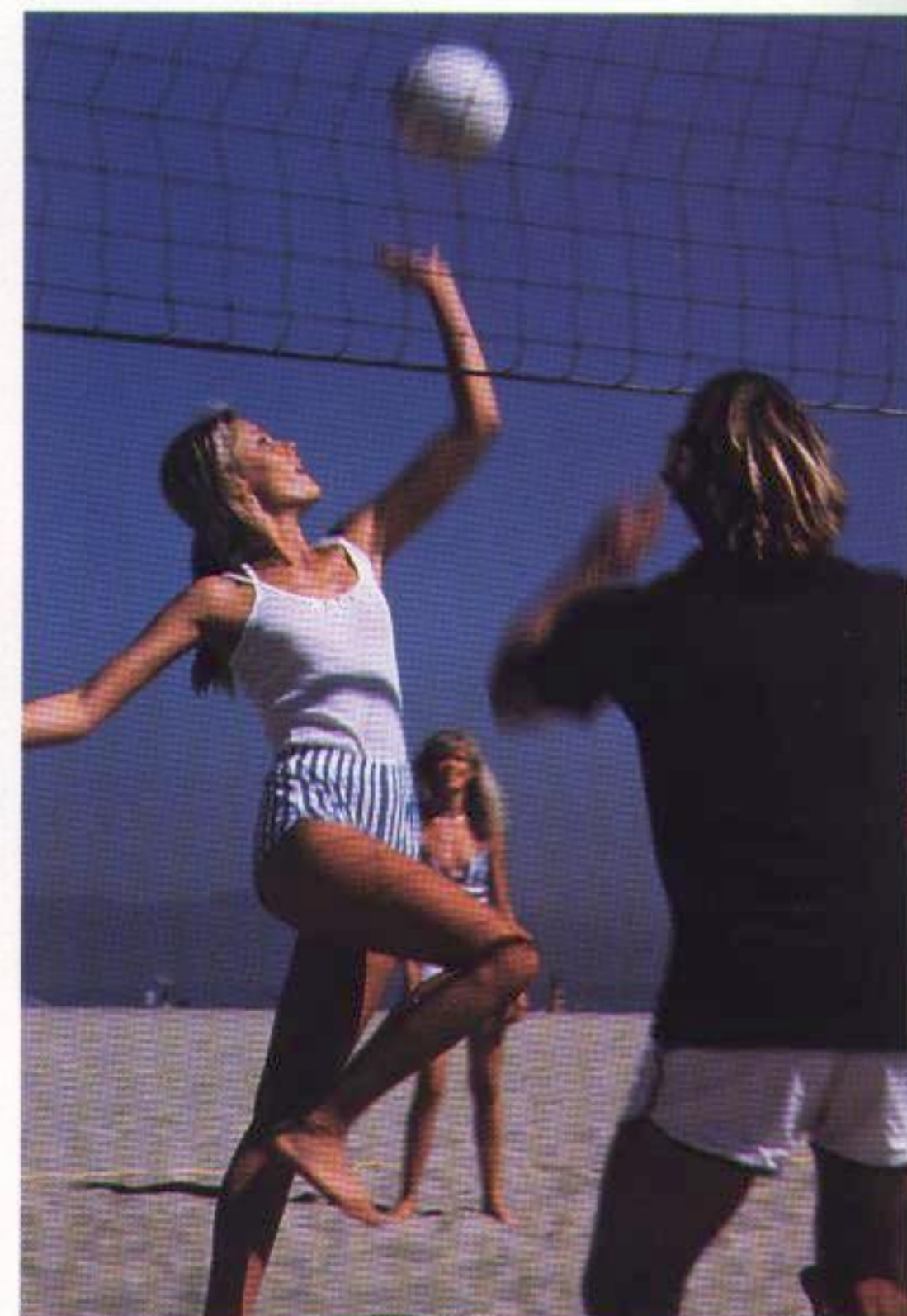
Marlene Janssen

Marlene (left) was a real sport at beach volleyball (below) or learning sports-car racing skills so she could co-host (with Playmate Kym Malin) the PLAYBOY United States Endurance Cup (bottom). "I've always been one to test the odds," she says by way of explaining why she chose Friday the 13th (of October 1995) to get married. "I do things a little backward," she adds. "I had a little boy about five



years ago, and then found my Mr. Wonderful. I had a lot of Mr. Wrongs along the way, but here I am [inset] living in North Carolina with an electrician—and loving it!" She also holds down

a full-time job as a customer-service rep for a chemical firm that manufactures superabsorbent polymers. "Pretty interesting," observes Marlene, "going from modeling to chemistry."



Charlotte Kemp

The brains behind the Playboy Running Team, Charlotte organized the centerfold corps of 5K, 10K and marathon runners in November 1994.

"Everything we do is for charity," she says. "We represent the image of the girl next door who's athletic and beautiful and keeps herself up." On the Running Team with Charlotte: Playmates Rebecca Ferratti, Cathy St. George, Ava Fabian, Suzi Simpson, Kym Herrin, Tylyn John, Amanda Hope, Patty Duffek and Pamela Bryant (that's Kym left and Pam right in the photo below). Charlotte herself started running to help control her stress-induced asthma. Running isn't Charlotte's only interest: She has appeared on stage, screen and TV and hones her entrepreneurial skills by producing sexual instruction videos "for people who want to learn how to deal with sex in the Nineties."

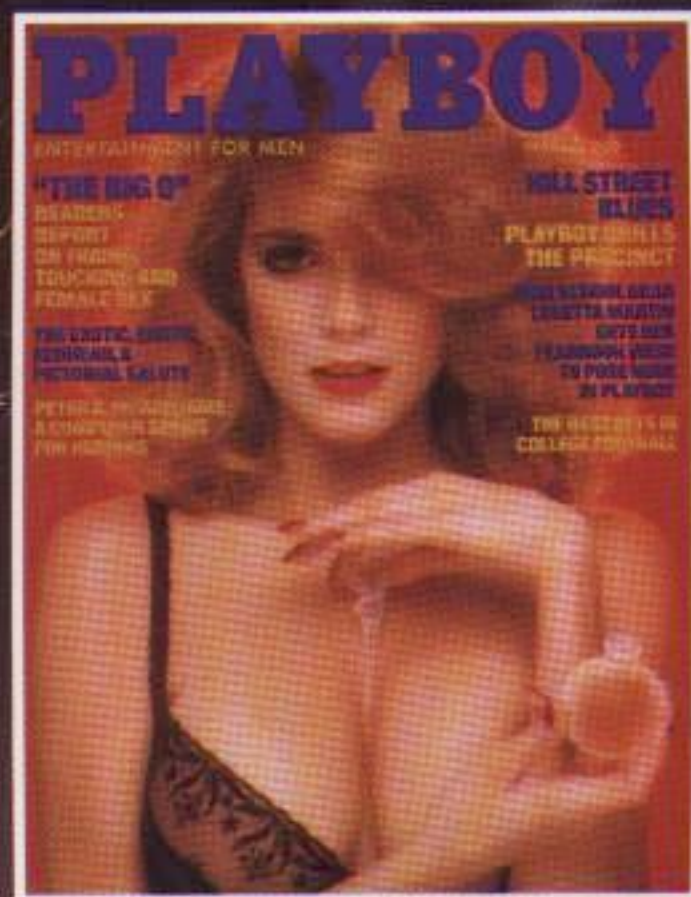


PLAYMATE PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR

BJAYE TURNER *on*

CHARLOTTE KEMP

Charlotte has taken this concept of the Playboy Running Team and made it blossom. She got a licensing agreement from PLAYBOY and built up from scratch a list of sponsors and a wardrobe line—nice quality stuff, sweatshirts, caps and things. It's quite admirable.





Miss January 1983 *Lonny Chin*

Born in Liverpool of Chinese-Jamaican and Welsh-Swedish parentage, Lonny (left) lived in four Canadian provinces before moving to California and becoming both a centerfold and PLAYBOY's first video Playmate.

PHOTOGRAPHER

ANNY FREYTAG *on*

LONNY CHIN

Lonny was a very beautiful girl, tall, statuesque, and what a face! Hers was one of my favorite centerfolds. We shot her in the studio and then on location near Vancouver. We had to snowshoe in about a mile and a half. It was tough carrying a couple hundred pounds of equipment. We pulled it on sleds, and our snowshoes kept falling off. We forded a stream with a natural hot spring on the other side, but at the end of the day the river rose three feet and we couldn't get back. We had to throw a rope across, lasso a rock and pull ourselves over. It was scary, but we made it back without losing anything.

Miss February 1983

Melinda Mays

Melinda (below) was teaching aerobics classes at a suburban Atlanta health club when PLAYBOY caught up with her. The workouts, a staffer who attended one reported, were grueling. Perhaps that was a good thing, since Melinda admitted that a passion for ice cream was one of her weaknesses.





Miss March 1983 *Alana Soares*

When she posed for PLAYBOY, Alana (left and below) was studying political science at the University of Utah. She ended up with a degree in communications (and a minor in cinema) from USC and married a football player. Now the mother of two small children, she works part time as a pharmaceutical rep. "When the children start school," she says, "I plan to return to school for my master's degree in communications."



Miss April 1983 *Christina Ferguson*

At the age of 19, Air Force brat Christina (below) had already lived in 15 states. The only Playmate on record to have married a PLAYBOY editor's brother, Christina quickly fulfilled a stated Playmate Data Sheet ambition of becoming a mother. She has three sons from her first marriage and is now the wife of a math professor at an Eastern university.

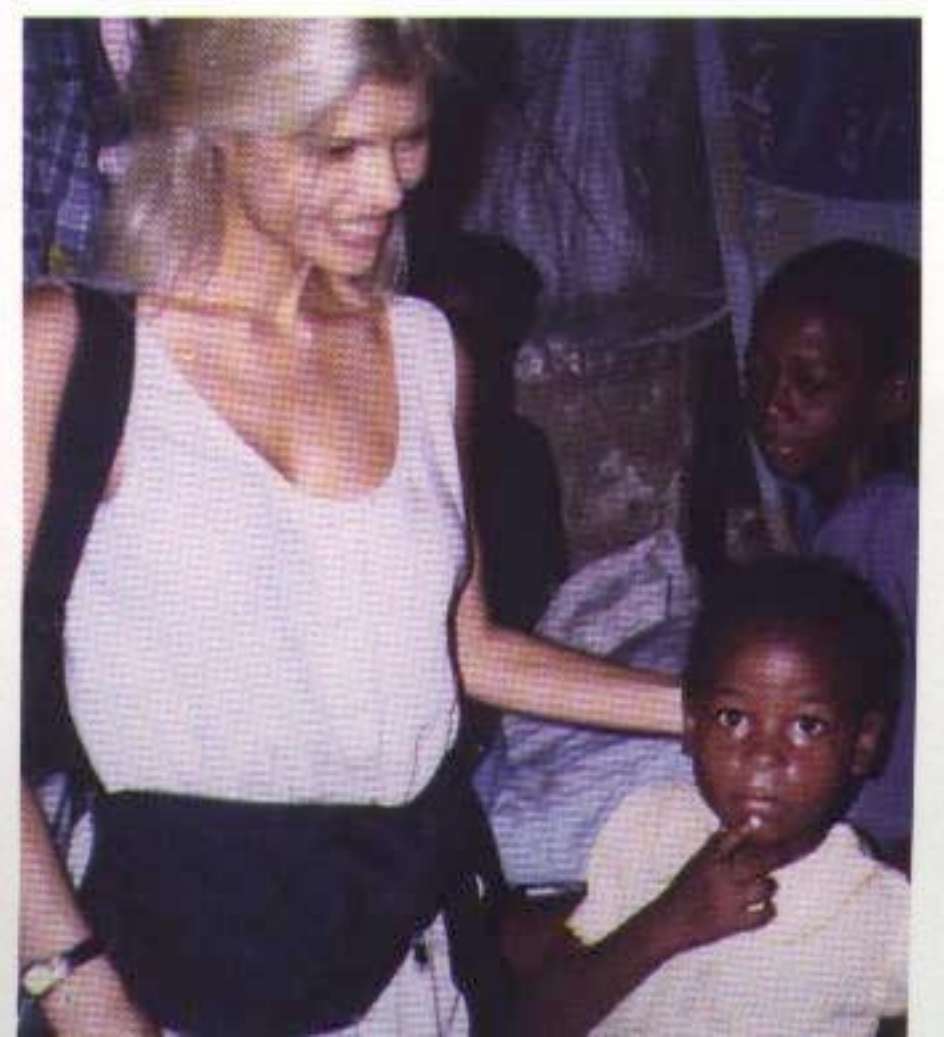




Miss May 1983

Susie Scott

Her story could be a Movie of the Week: athletic girl discovered by photographer, faces terror while learning rock climbing during her photo shoot (below), marries, moves to Aspen, opens an antique shop, divorces, marries her divorce attorney and finds a new purpose in life. Susie saw a 20/20 documentary on Mongolian children living in sewers and booked a flight to Mongolia to see for herself. She's now president of the Foundation for Worldwide Mercy and Sharing, makes frequent trips to the Port-au-Prince slum called Cité Soleil (bottom) and raises funds for a complex there that now includes an orphanage, a nursery for abandoned babies and a hospital. In February 1996 ground was broken for a new surgical unit at the hospital. "U.S. dollars go a long way in Haiti," she observes. "God willing, we'll get the money to finish the unit this year."



Miss June 1983 *Jolanda Egger*

Jolanda's route to PLAYBOY's centerfold was circuitous. Born in Switzerland, she was living in Berlin when Pompeo Posar discovered her vacationing in Spain, where he was helping the editors of PLAYBOY's German edition do a feature that would tie in with the 1982 World Cup matches there. One photo he took of Jolanda led off the American edition's *Ladies of Spain* pictorial (April 1983). Her centerfold was shot in Chicago and her Playmate picture story in Berlin (inset). The next stop, she predicted, would be Los Angeles. It was.



Miss July 1983

Ruth Guerri

Ruth (left) lives in a log cabin—a two-story structure that she and her husband built from a pair of existing cabins—in a small community in the Missouri woods. "We came out here from St. Louis in 1989, and probably the day we moved in I got pregnant. So now we have a little girl, Ellie, almost six, and a baby, Ursula. I also have an antique store, and my husband commutes to St. Louis, where he's in the investment business."

PHOTOGRAPHER

STEPHEN WAYDA

on

RUTH GUERRI

Ruth did promotions for Anheuser-Busch, so we had this idea of flying her over St. Louis in one of their hot-air balloons. We had three balloons and a helicopter and somebody came up with the notion of flying her balloon through the Gateway Arch. The park police got called, the wind came up and we all got scattered. We got uncomfortably close to the airspace at Lambert International Airport but finally managed to land safely.



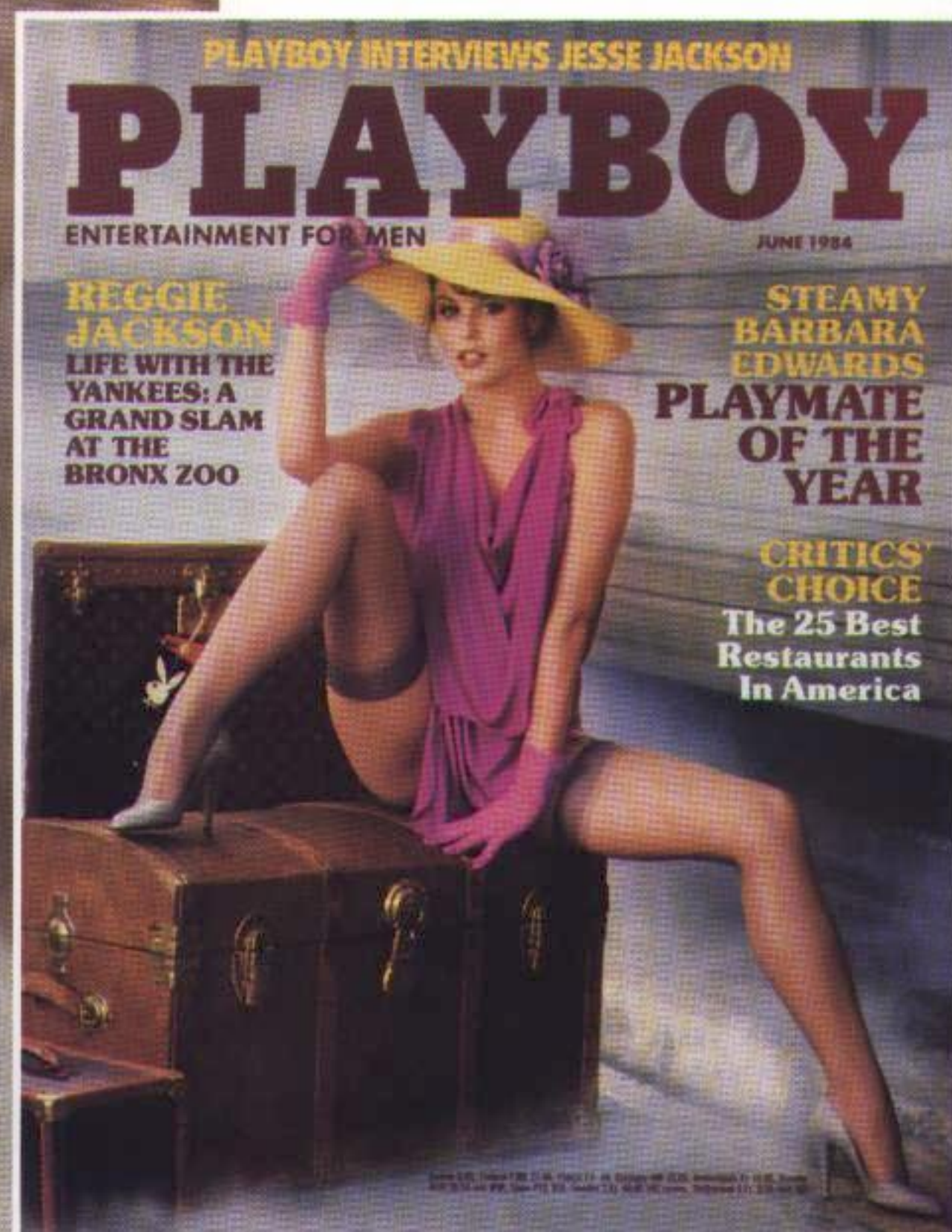
Miss October 1983 *Tracy Vaccaro*

Shortly before her centerfold came out, Tracy (bottom) married the "ideal man" from her Data Sheet: actor Fred (Hunter) Dryer. She appeared on a PLAYBOY cover, in a batch of movies and TV shows and won Blake Edwards' Most Beautiful Legs in the World contest for a part in his film *The Man Who Loved Women*. She and Fred had a daughter, now a preteen, and are no longer married. "We're still very good friends," she says. "He always lets me work for him. I did four episodes of *Land's End* last year." Some seven years ago Tracy, who'd just had another daughter, left Los Angeles for Las Vegas and, for the past five years, has been married to a retired ballet dancer who is a shiatsu masseur and herbologist, "so we have a really good business going here." They have two more children and also train dogs—German-bred shepherds—for a sport called *Schutzhund*, which involves search and rescue, obedience and protection.



Miss August 1983 *Carina Persson*

Not one to sit still for long, Carina (above) was in Florence when she spotted the issue with her centerfold on a newsstand. She bought a few extra copies to take home to the folks in Sweden. Her country's reputation for sexual freedom is slightly overstated, she claimed, except, well, "maybe people don't care so much if they have clothes on or not." In her Playmate shooting, Carina posed in and out of an impressive variety of undergarments. Later, she appeared with five other centerfolds in the John Landis film *Into the Night*.



Miss September 1983

Barbara Edwards

1984 Playmate of the Year

Her thing used to be art, but these days Barbara Edwards is writing a book—a sort of extended autobiography. From what she says, Barbara won't lack for material from her own life: a house destroyed by the 1994 earthquake, a leased home invaded by gangs, family feuds. And somehow, she says, everyone finds it funny. "This is my life we're talking about, but people laugh their heads off." Barbara and her husband Fred have "overcome everything," she says. "There's nothing we haven't made it through, and we're still making it through." She credits John MacArthur, pastor of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, for helping them. "I love that church. It's a great family church for our three kids. I do home schooling with them up to kindergarten, and then they go to Christian school. They call my family the Simpsons. I have two girls and a boy. My son is a Bart and my dog, a chocolate Lab, is a Simpson dog. He flunked obedience school. And I am a total Marge, bitching as I'm cleaning the floor."

Miss November 1983

Veronica Gamba

She had been a fashion model since high school, working in Houston, New York, France and Italy but calling Fort Lauderdale home. Veronica (right and below) still models, but her home base is in the San Francisco Bay area and her principal pursuit is mothering her seven-year-old son and infant daughter. "I was pregnant with my son when I did a lingerie cover for PLAYBOY," she recalls. "I was so nice and full on top that the other girls thought I'd had breast implants."



Miss December 1983 *Terry Nihen*

When she was discovered by Miss February 1983, Melinda Mays, in a disco bikini contest, Terry (below) was living in Atlanta. She accepted Melinda's suggestion to consider a Playmate test shooting, but before long she abandoned Atlanta. "I like Atlanta, but New England is home," said the Concord, Massachusetts native, and moved back for good.



Miss January 1984

Penny Baker

30th Anniversary Playmate

Winner of the 30th Anniversary Playmate Hunt, Penny cut the cake with the man who started it all at a reception in the Los Angeles Playboy Club (below).

After trying her luck in Hollywood, she headed home to Buffalo, enrolled at the University of Buffalo and "in five years graduated cum laude with a major in communications and a minor in human resource management." Penny now (inset) spends most of her time working for a Chicago marketing firm that represents the Marlboro division of Phillip Morris. "We travel around the country promoting Marlboro to our target audience, which is men 18 to 35. I live in the

country, raise miniature horses, and I still model, too. I work out all the time and keep in shape. I'm not married yet, but I'm thinking more about settling down."



PLAYBOY STAFFER

WALTER LOWE *on*

PENNY BAKER

Penny was a really sweet kid, kind of like Candy Loving but with a slightly wackier edge. Her personality was like one of those characters that Melanie Griffith usually plays—cheerful, idealistic, not very sophisticated but confident. And this kid could really eat. When I took her out, she went the whole nine yards: shrimp cocktail and filet mignon, double chocolate cake, all the while protesting that she really shouldn't eat so much since she'd put herself on a very strict diet to slim down for her Playmate shooting.





Miss February 1984

Justine Greiner

She was born in Boston, but by the time she finished high school she had become such a confirmed Californian that she left the University of Kansas after one term, tucked her skateboard under her arm and headed back West. "When I told people in Kansas I was from California, they'd look at me like I was crazy." Home in the land of palm trees and sunny beaches, Justine (left) went to work at a large retail establishment in Beverly Hills.



Miss March 1984 *Dona Speir*

"You know something? PLAYBOY was a lot of fun, but this is the most fulfilling time of my life." Dona is talking about marriage and motherhood; she has a toddler son and "my husband and I are talking about a second." Dona was the first of several Playmates to star in movies made by the team of Andy and Arlene Sidaris—each picture featuring bikini-clad undercover agents. "I did seven films with them," Dona says. "I hung up my movie shoes when I got pregnant, but it's amazing, I still get fan mail from all over the world, for those films as well as for PLAYBOY."

Miss April 1984

LesAnn Pedriana

Her stated ambition was to be "very successful, secure and happy in my profession." At the time, she thought her calling was to be a makeup artist, and she plied that trade for PLAYBOY. She also modeled for famed photographer Helmut Newton (right). Today (inset) she's a photographer herself. "I'm putting together a couple of coffee-table picture books, and I work on film sets doing production stills. I'm extremely happy and fulfilled." Proceeds from one of LesAnn's books will benefit animal rescue efforts, which—along with help for abused children—are her favorite charities. Married to an independent producer, she's a regular presence on the European film-festival circuit.



Miss May 1984 Patty Duffek

No, she's not behind the counter at Pioneer Chicken Take-Out (below) anymore, but she's back in Arizona. "I took a break for a while, was out of school for six years, during which I was in the Playmate Olympics and a few movies—*Hard Ticket to Hawaii*, *Picasso Trigger* and *Savage Beach*—and I was married for about a year. Then I went back to school and finished up



my degree. Got my bachelor's in social work from Arizona State University and graduated magna cum laude. I really didn't expect that." Patty (in 1984, far left) is now a social worker with a caseload of some 30 elderly patients. "It is hard work, draining sometimes, but very fulfilling."



Miss June 1984 *Tricia Lange*

Armed with a B.A. in English literature from UCLA (below, she revisits the campus with best friend Laurie Martin), Tricia (left) jumped headlong into a dual career as actress and model. Her credits include roles in television's *Matt Houston*, *Mike Hammer* and *Blue Thunder*, in the movie *Johnny Dangerously* (with Michael Keaton), and modeling work for clients such as Bohemia Beer and Honda Fashions.

PHOTOGRAPHER

KEN MARCUS on

TRICIA LANGE

Beautiful girl, fabulous skin. She has the kind of skin you just want to go over and touch.



Miss July 1984 *Liz Stewart*

One of the few women to head her own construction design firm, Liz believes, in retrospect, that she was always interested in that field. "As a little girl, I used to go through the Sears catalog and cut out pictures of entire rooms, pick out accessories and paste them in a book to make a house." After spending some eight years as a Bunny at the Playboy Club in Los Angeles' Century City, she segued into marriage, motherhood and the real estate business. "In 1986, when I started, I was able to ride the crest of the real estate boom. That's when I got introduced to property development and design, and now I'm at the point where I just have to complete a series of exams in order to get my state certification as a designer."





Miss September 1984 *Kimberly Evenson*

In her first film, 1985's *Porky's Revenge*, Kim flashes her fellow high school grads at commencement. It earned her a prominent spot in that year's *Sex in Cinema* roundup. Telling UPI Hollywood reporter Vernon Scott she would rather pose for *PLAYBOY* (below) than for *Vogue*, Kim went on to make other movies, including *Kandyland* (the tale of a sweet young thing who becomes an exotic dancer) and *Kidnapped*.



Miss August 1984 *Suzi Schott*

When she posed as Playmate (above), she said she wanted to "marry and raise a houseful of children." She has done just that (inset: Suzi today). "I'm a total homemaker mom. We have one boy and two girls—seven, five and four—and driving is all I do. Being a centerfold was the greatest experience," says Suzi from her home in suburban Chicago. "You get to travel around, you're treated very well and you make money while you're doing it." Suzi actually met her husband on a *PLAYBOY* modeling assignment. "He hired me to do some work in New Orleans for his company. I thought, Oh boy, this guy just wants to play house. Who does he think he is? The very next day we were madly in love, and we've been together ever since—married 11 years."





Miss October 1984

*Debi Nicole
Johnson*

After her PLAYBOY experience, which she says was "even more fun than I expected," Debi (left) moved to Los Angeles and became roommates with Miss March 1983, Alana Soares. "We lived together for ten years, and she and her sister Leilani became the sisters I never had." Debi remains in the Los Angeles area, where "I've been working for four years as assistant manager of a chain of upscale gentlemen's clubs. I'm single—no children except the four-legged variety. I have five dogs and three cats and I'm a devoted member of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals."



Miss November 1984 *Roberta Vasquez*

PLAYBOY readers were introduced to Roberta (above and right) in the February 1984 tribute to *Women of Steel*. At the time, she was a security guard for the May Co. department store. Next she got a job with the California State Police. Then Roberta put her law enforcement experience to work in *Street Asylum*, an action adventure co-starring Wings Hauser. She has done other films and music videos for Earth, Wind & Fire as well as McDonald's commercials for the Hispanic market.





Miss December 1984

Karen Velez

1985 Playmate of the Year

She met actor Lee Majors, star of *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Fall Guy* and other television series, at one of Hefner's Friday night movie sessions at Playboy Mansion West. "We had a date like two weeks later, and I moved right in. We were inseparable for 11 years." Lee and Karen (below) had three children together—a daughter and twin boys—but the marriage has now ended. Says Karen, "I still love him to death and we get along really well. Some things just happen." These days Karen spends most of her time with her children. "I'm not dating anybody," she says. "I've met some really nice people, but I'm a one-man woman, and at this point in my life I just don't have the desire to make any kind of commitment."

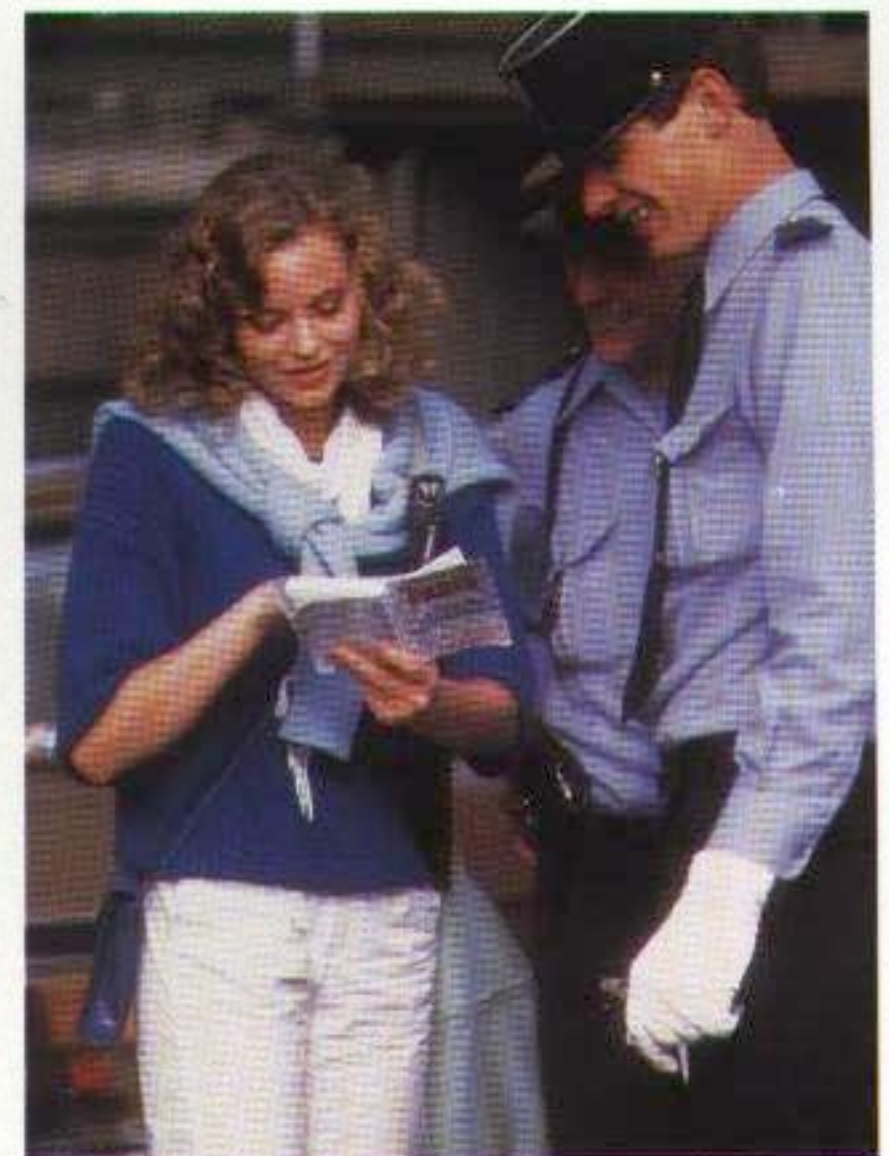




Miss January 1985

Joan Bennett

At Glenbard West High School near Chicago, Joan (left) was voted the senior most likely to be a PLAYBOY centerfold. She made it. When she was asked to suggest a location for her PLAYBOY picture story, she said unhesitatingly: Paris. Once more Joan got her wish. While shooting with PLAYBOY, she chatted with gendarmes (below) and modeled haute couture on the grounds of a château. When the PLAYBOY photography crew returned to Chicago, Joan stayed in Paris.





Miss February 1985

Cherie Witter

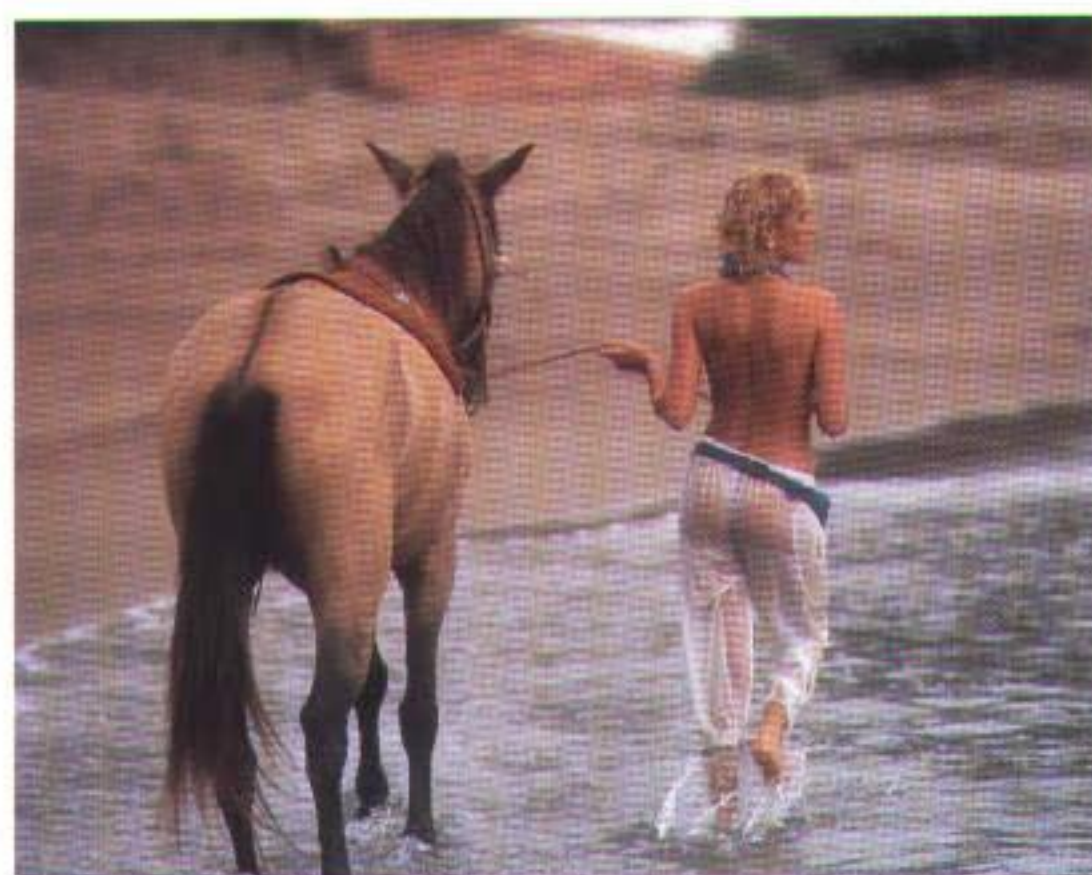
Cherie (left) bought a home on Puget Sound a couple of years ago and lives there with her two daughters. After one marriage and a couple of engagements, she's concentrating on caring for her children. She's also active in volunteer work with a hospice and a shelter for abused women. And she works out regularly with personal trainer Don Anderson (inset left).



"I'm really happy where I live, with my family and friends, but I guess I'm nervous about getting married again."

Miss March 1985 Donna Smith

After posing for PLAYBOY's centerfold—and with her sibling Natalie for the following month's *Playmate Sisters* cover and pictorial (left)—Donna (below) ran into a bad patch. "This was all after PLAYBOY. It didn't have anything to do with PLAYBOY. But after I had my first son I thought I'd take a year off from modeling and I turned to drugs. It was a very long, tough road for me. Finally I put the Lord back into my life and it just saved me. I went through rehab and my life is back on track. I moved to Washington State to get away from all the riffraff in California, and I've been clean for almost two years now." A single mother, Donna has just had her third baby—"I'm done," she says. "My three sons—that's enough for me. Now I'm hoping to get back to work on my music."



Miss April 1985
Cindy Brooks

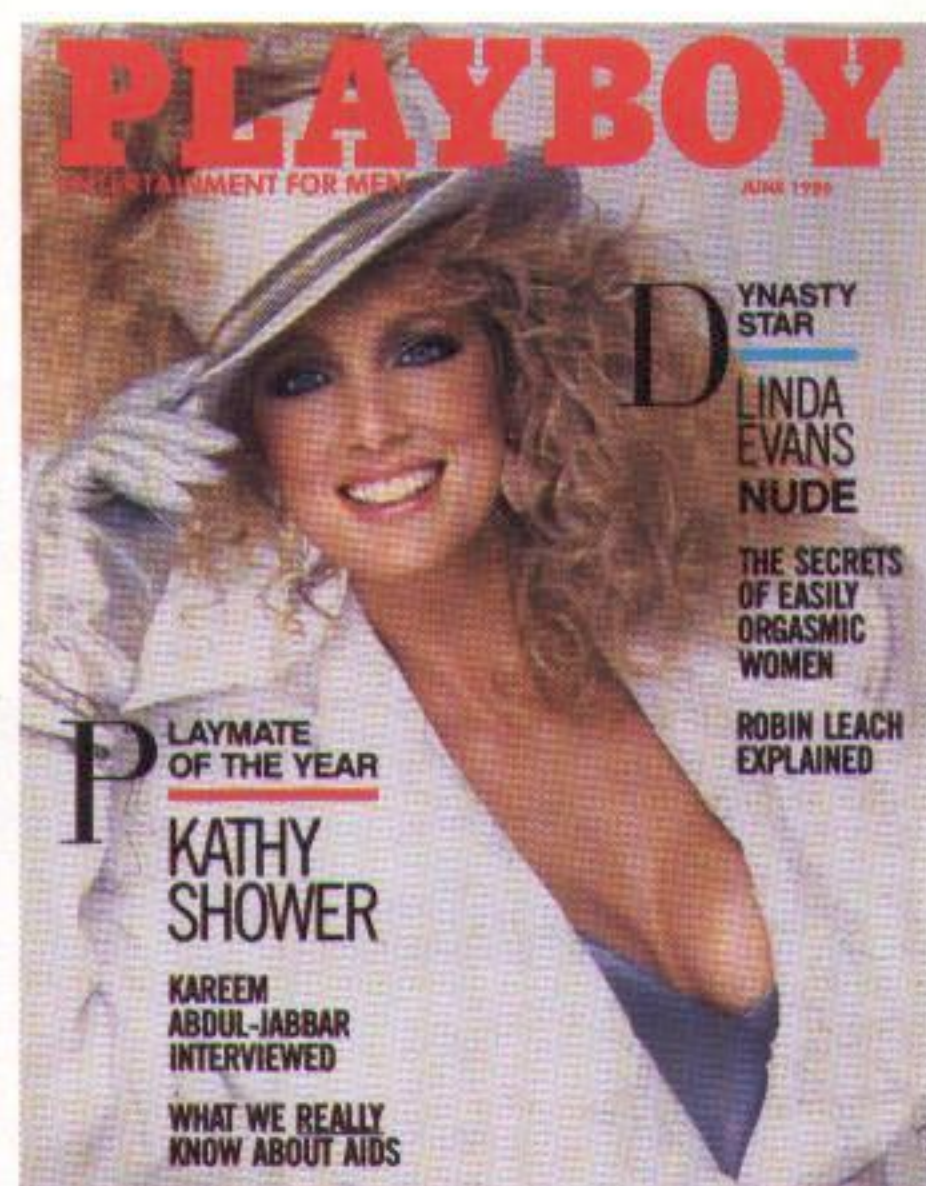
On her Playmate Data Sheet, under Ambitions, Cindy wrote: "To find a man who can share all the love I have to give in a world that is free and at peace." She met the man she was looking for in Los Angeles a couple of years later; they now live with their three children and his son (inset) in his home state of Indiana. "I became a Christian about a year after my centerfold," she says. "I'm active in my church, I have great friends, a nice house, and I plant flowers."



Miss May 1985
Kathy Shower

1986 Playmate of the Year

In the years since her Playmate appearance, Kathy (right) has accumulated a long list of film and TV credits, starting with three years on the soap *Santa Barbara*. "Three years ago," says Kathy, "I was doing a promotional tour for *Santa Barbara*, which is enormous in Europe, and I loved it. So I retained an agent in Rome—and now I'm living and working in Spain." Kathy wasn't the first Playmate mom, but she was the first whose daughters nearly stole her Playmate of the Year show (at bottom, that's Melonie at left, Mindy on the right). "The girls are doing fine," Kathy says. "Mindy is studying law and Melonie will study music here in Barcelona during her senior year. What I want people to know is that I'm a single mother, I have two wonderful daughters, I'm living in a wonderful city and getting along with my life. Am I married? No, because I have very high expectations, and that's OK, too."



Miss June 1985
Devin Renée DeVasquez

"I was 33 this year, but I still get carded," says Devin (above), who feels she's in even better shape than when she won the *Star Search* spokesmodel category in 1986. "I got married and gave up modeling and acting, was a housewife for several years in Tennessee and Arizona. I got divorced and moved back to the L.A. area in 1991 and resumed my career, which has been going very well. In the last four years I've done feature films and more than 50 national commercials."







Miss July 1985

Hope Marie Carlton

Hope Marie (left) says she "can't imagine PLAYBOY not being a part of my life. I remember stealing magazines out from under my grandfather's bed." Her father was killed in an auto accident before she was born, and Hefner's personal physician, Mark Saginor, walked her down the aisle five years ago at her marriage to a garment manufacturer she'd met on a blind date. "I made a wonderful living as an actress and model. When we moved to Utah, we built a huge log home and have the ranch of our dreams, 160 acres with almost a mile of riverfront on the Colorado River." Computer-connected fans can see Hope Marie on Electronic Arts' CD-ROM *The Adventures of Noctropolis*, in which she plays Stiletto, a superheroine who tries to rid a futuristic city of the forces of evil.



Miss August 1985 *Cher Butler*

"After the Rodney King riots I decided to leave L.A. and come back to New Mexico, where I had gone to high school, and just kind of chill out," says Cher (right). "I've kept journals since I was about 13, and I decided I'd finally do something with them. Writing makes me happy." She recently entered a university in New York State, where she'll pursue a master's degree in English with the help of a scholarship from a writers' group.

Miss September 1985 *Venice Kong*

The last stapled Playmate, Venice (right) is working now as an executive assistant to a private investigator. "I'm a single career girl, working on my bachelor's degree in management, and I have a home and two dogs and a phenomenal rose garden. That's my life these days."



Miss October 1985

Cynthia Brimhall

A regular in Andy and Arlene Sidaris' repertory company of Playmate actresses, Cynthia (above and below) played Edy, a club owner, in *Hard Ticket to Hawaii* and *Picasso Trigger*. "I didn't realize how popular they would turn out to be—that is until I walked into a restaurant and people started shouting, 'Edy!'" Cynthia later joined the cast of Playboy's *Girls of Rock and Roll* in Lake Tahoe.



Miss November 1985

Pamela Saunders

Introduced to readers in February 1985's *Girls of Texas* pictorial, Pam (right and below) is back where it all started, in the Lone Star State. She's a single mom now—her son is eight—and spends a lot of time with his sports activities. She alternates TV work and commercials with dancing.



Miss December 1985 *Carol Ficatier*

A model from France, Carol (below) has posed for lingerie billboards in Paris and Fruit-a-Freez fruit-bar boxes in America. She appeared on screen in Paul Mazursky's *The Tempest*, on TV in *Parker Lewis, Dangerous Curves* and Playboy TV's *Hot Rocks*, and sang in Vegas with Playboy's *Girls of Rock and Roll*.



Miss January 1986

Sherry Arnett

Sherry (below) was a St. Louis-based model and former pharmacy student when she became a Playmate. Now married, she and her husband manage real estate in different parts of the country. "No kids yet," she says, "we haven't gotten brave enough." Sherry has spent the last several years designing management training programs and operational manuals. "But now I'm a student—studying to be a chef—and I just love being back in school."



Miss February 1986

Julie McCullough

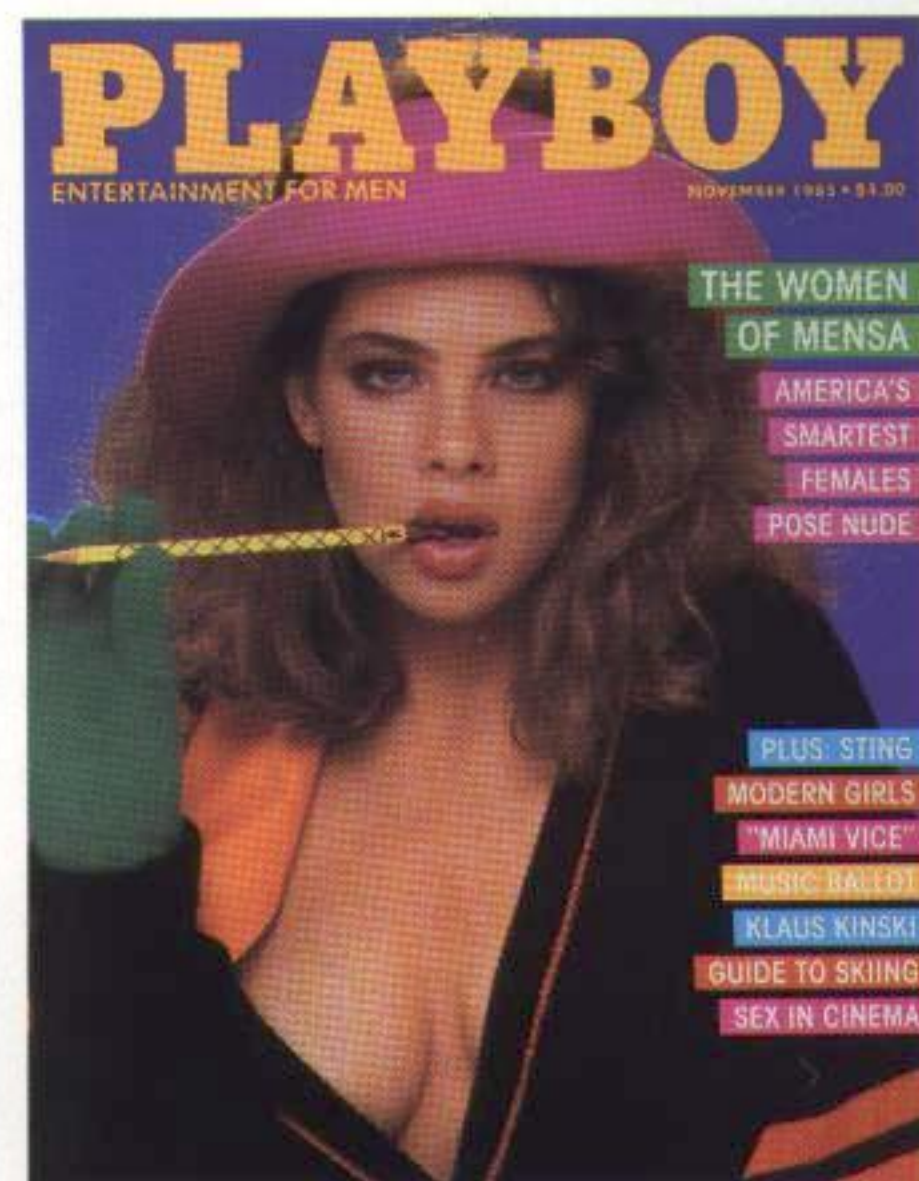
In her first try at modeling, Julie (right) hit the big time: PLAYBOY's February 1985 cover. Exactly one year later, she was the centerfold. In 1989, Julie was cast as a nanny named Julie on *Growing Pains*. All went well until the tabloids, egged on by a fundamentalist minister, started baying about Julie's PLAYBOY past. Rumors persist that it was her centerfold that got her written out of the series. Since then, she has starred in Aaron Spelling's syndicated series *Robin's Hoods*, played a recurring role on the *Drew Carey* show and is trying her hand at writing sitcom scripts.





Miss April 1986 *Teri Weigel*

PLAYBOY readers first saw Teri on the magazine's November 1985 cover (right). At the time of her Playmate pictorial (below), she told her interviewer, "I feel as if my life is in continual overhaul." One might say that. With the encouragement of her husband, she was the first Playmate to shed her girl-next-door image and do hardcore porn. The couple has also put together a traveling strip show. "I'm an entertainer," Teri told an interviewer, "and I don't lie about what I do. I make people happy."



Miss March 1986 *Kim Morris*

Kim (above), a former orthodontist's assistant in Hawaii, was a model who enjoyed painting under the tutelage of her mother (below). One of her jobs—a poster for Super Nautilus Spas featuring Kim in a bikini under the slogan "We proudly present some really nice figures"—later caused controversy when a feminist protest got it banned from BART, San Francisco's regional subway system.





Miss June 1986 *Rebecca Ferratti*

Rebecca (below) hit Hollywood with some 25 Arizona beauty pageant titles and then appeared on a dozen TV shows—she was one of the original American Gladiators—and even more movies, including *Three Amigos* (with Chevy Chase, Steve Martin and Martin Short, bottom left) and *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective* (with Jim Carrey, bottom right). She's a single mother of two, a member of the Playboy Running Team, an investor in a workout club, the heroine of a new comic book, *Rebecca Ferratti's House of the Dinosaurs*, and is writing and developing her own television show, *American Athlete*.



Miss May 1986

Christine Richters

At the time of her centerfold (above), Christine hadn't seen her dad since she was three, when her parents split: "I hope he'll see my picture and call," she said at the time. "And I did find him through that story," she says. "All this time we were both living in Orange County! We do stuff together a lot now." Now a licensed practical nurse ("It's kind of like a family thing: My mom and my aunt are both nurses"), Christine is the mother of a three-year-old (inset) and is going through a divorce.





Miss July 1986

Lynne Austin

Her likeness loomed on billboards over Florida highways and byways, but elsewhere in America, few had heard of Hooters, the then-regional restaurant chain that had discovered Lynne in a bathing-beauty contest and made her its

spokeswoman. There are now 178 Hooters around the country. Lynne liked baseball players—that's George Brett she's talking to in a Playmate pictorial shot below—and married one,



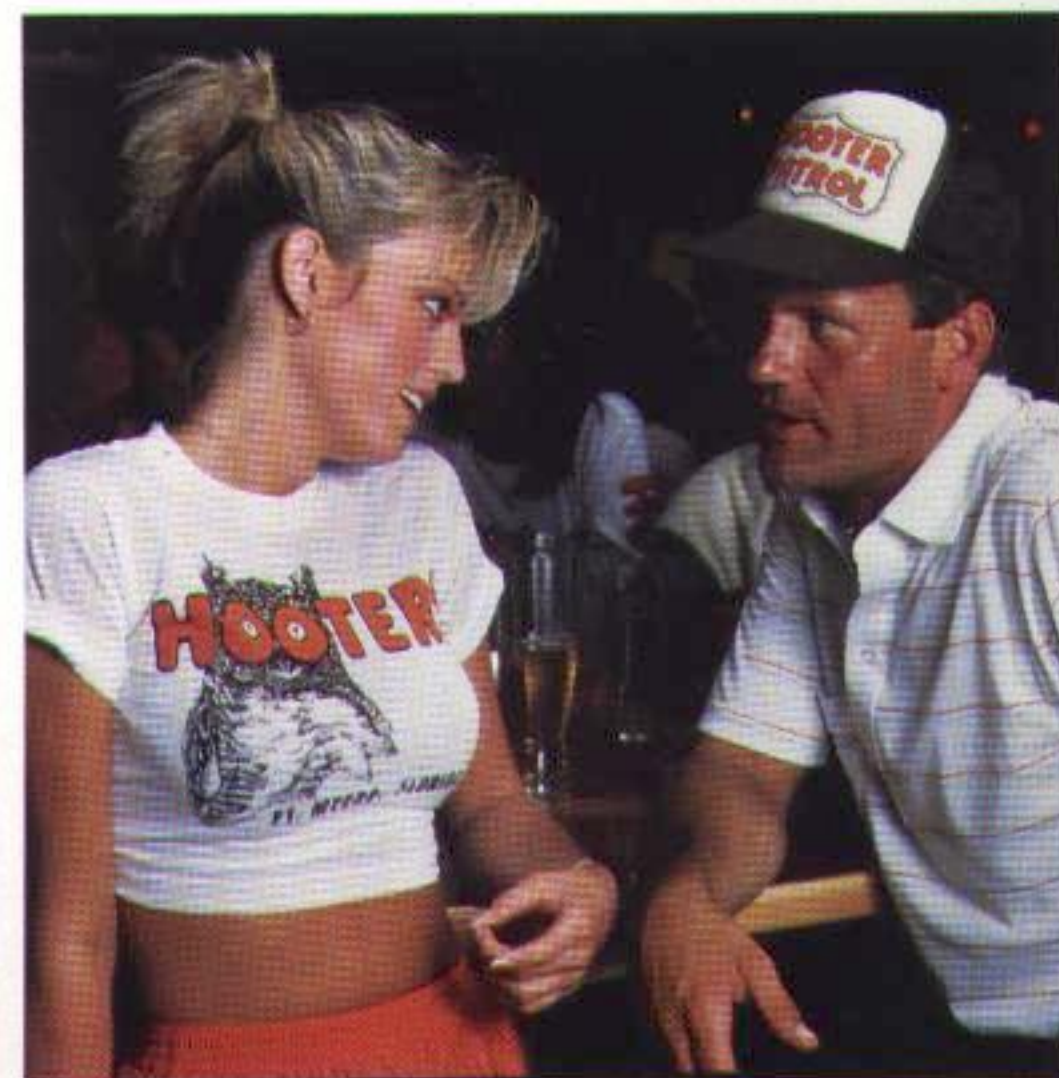
Philadelphia Phillies catcher Darren Daulton. They're divorced now, but Lynne today (inset) is the doting mom of a six-year-old son. "I'm still the national spokesperson for Hooters," she says, "and I have a radio show in Tampa."

PLAYBOY STAFFER

BRUCE KLUGER *on*

LYNNE AUSTIN

I was captivated by her energy, her sexiness and her one-of-a-kind vocabulary. "Hey, take the air outta my glass," she said to the bartender, gesturing for another beer. I let one particularly colorful remark slip through into the published copy and she called up and let me have it. Just as quickly, though, she forgave me. I'm grateful for that. One always needs a Lynne Austin in one's life.



Miss August 1986 *Ava Fabian*

Ava's Playmate story opened with an account of her birthday party at the L.A. nightclub Tramps. In 1996 Ava tossed herself a birthday party at the same location, now called Tempest. In between it had been Ava's, but that's another story having to do with an ex-boyfriend. "It's kind of sad that it's not mine anymore," she says. "But it's great that I can keep having my birthday there. I invited 600 people and 500 showed up: Dan Aykroyd and Jon Lovitz and Scott Baio and Beverly d'Angelo and all of my close friends." Ava, a New Yorker, was discovered on her third day in Los Angeles by PLAYBOY's West Coast Photo Editor Marilyn Grabowski. "I've had a great ten years," she observed during a break from signing autographs at Glamourcon in Los Angeles. "PLAYBOY has changed my life totally. I took every advantage of it for three years, modeling, traveling all over the world. Then I went into commercials and did a lot of movies." Now she's considering moving back to New York to work on a soap opera.





Miss September 1986

Rebekka Lynn Armstrong

Three years after becoming a Playmate, Rebekka—who had been working steadily as an actress and model—learned she was HIV-positive. She might have been infected through a blood transfusion she had at the age of 16, or it may have come about through unprotected sex with "the one partner I've never been able to find. Everybody else has tested negative." However it happened, Rebekka says, she hit bottom for a time. Then, on her 26th birthday, February 20, 1993—right after being diagnosed with AIDS—she attended her first support-group meeting. Since then, she has been tireless in working to teach others (teens, in particular) about the dangers of unprotected sex. Steve (*Forrest Gump*) Tisch is producing a movie on her life. "In September 1995 I got married to a wonderful man," she says, "an audiovisual editor who's working on his real estate license. He's HIV-negative and arranges his schedule so he can go with me when I speak. That way the students can ask him questions, too." When she was interviewed for *Entertainment Tonight* in 1994, Rebekka was in a lesbian relationship. She explains: "To me, it doesn't matter what sex, color, race, creed, religion you are if you care about somebody. I hate labels."

Armstrong brings AIDS message to youth

By BILL BLANC
News Review Correspondent
Few inhabitants of our valley will ever soar along Rebekka Armstrong's dizzying arc from life as a small-town high school student to nationwide notoriety as a glamorous magazine model. And, it is to be hoped, few will undergo the plunge into heartbreak and despair that has accompanied this young woman's brush with fame.

"I never gave a thought to AIDS," she says.

devastating consequences. In a recent presentation to the student body of Mesquite High School, Armstrong recapped how she left Burroughs High School before her senior year to embark on a modeling career. With lightning speed, she found herself featured in a 1986 issue of *Playboy* magazine. A "roller coaster" series of modeling assignments followed, alternating between "prestigious" and "very unprestigious." "It was an unbelievable change from Ridgecrest," Armstrong recalled. "It took me about three years to adjust to life in L.A. You don't believe how some people are.





Miss December 1986 *Laurie Carr*

For her Playmate story, Laurie (bottom) was photographed with her then love interest, guitarist Robbin Crosby of the metal band Ratt (below). Since then she has had a successful modeling career while also appearing in films (*Die Hard*, *Mortuary Academy*, *Can't Buy Me Love*) and on TV (*Full House*, *The Billionaire Boys Club*). "It was fun being a Playmate," she says, "but I went back to college—and I'm enjoying my anonymity now."



Miss October 1986 *Katherine Hushaw*



By the time her centerfold (above) appeared, Katherine had already been a helicopter pilot, an actress, a model and a voice-over artist. What Katherine is doing now (inset) is something she feels she's been leading up to all her life. "I've always been an artist, and now I express my love of shapes, textures and form in limited-edition jewelry, Designs by Kat." Kat lives in Los Angeles and refers to herself as a "heartist" because, she says, her designs are inspired by feelings of love, romance and happiness.



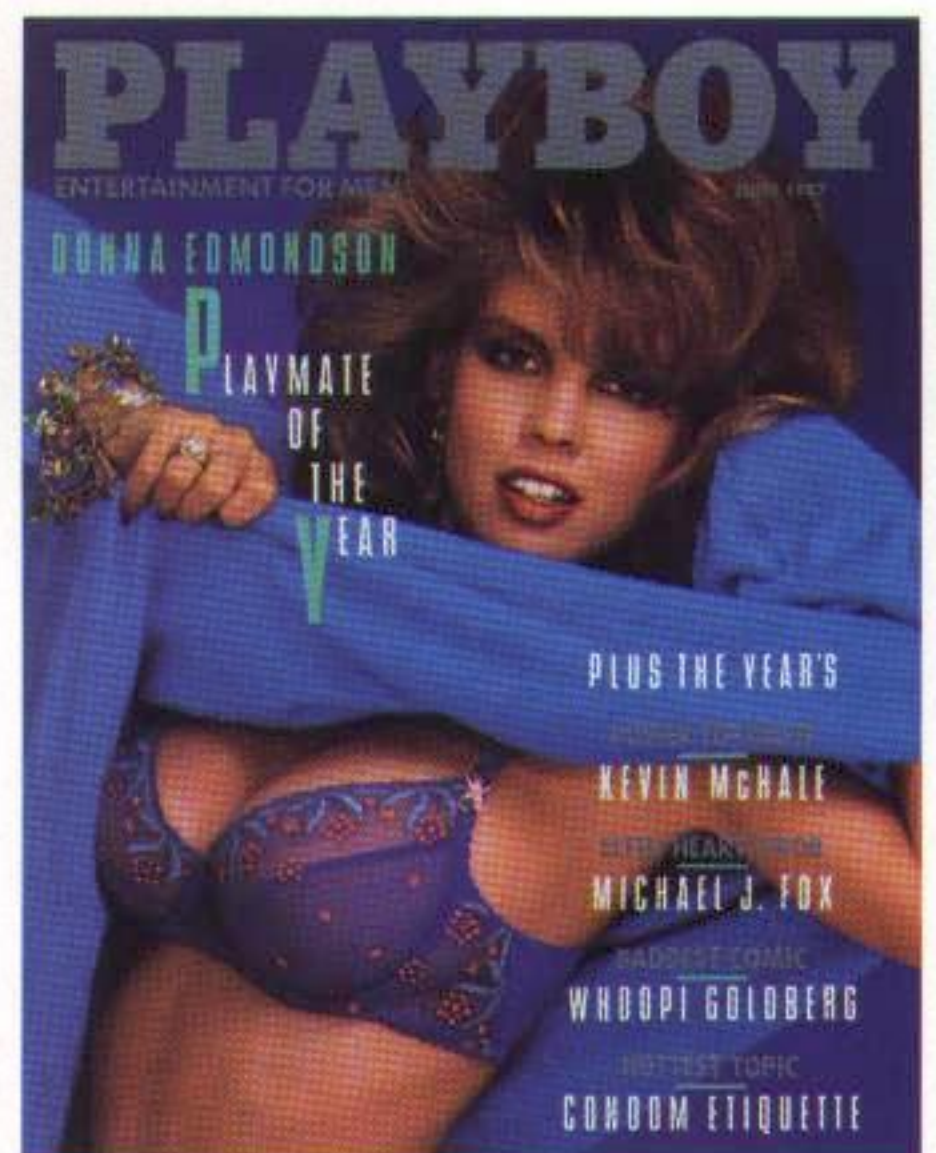


Miss November 1986

Donna Edmondson

1987 Playmate of the Year

When 20-year-old Donna Edmondson, a newly minted real estate agent from North Carolina, posed for her Playmate layout, she confessed that she had to fantasize about making love, since she'd never actually done it. Donna, who was immediately dubbed the Virgin Playmate, was still enduring questions about her status when she became Playmate of the Year (that's Donna with proud parents at her PMOY party, bottom). At least that's one issue now put to rest: Donna today is married and the mother of two preschoolers, a girl and a boy. "I think my PLAYBOY experience has made me a better mother," she says, "because I can look back and say, 'Wow, I did all this stuff in my life.'"



PHOTOGRAPHER

ARNY FREYTAG *on*

DONNA EDMONDSON

We were driving around looking for locations in North Carolina and I said to Donna, "Come on, are you really a virgin at your age?" And she said, "Arny, look out the window of this car and you tell me if you'd sleep with anybody from here." And I said, "Point well taken. You must be a virgin."





Miss January 1987 *Luann Lee*

Once one of the youngest agents in the history of the Metropolitan Life insurance company, Luann was juggling a singing career with commodities-futures investments when she became a Playmate (below). Today she's better known for TV work—formerly as co-host of the FX Channel's *Pet Department*, host and anchor of that net's *Backchat* and FX News programs, more recently as entertainment correspondent for the Popcorn Channel.



Miss February 1987

Julie Peterson

Julie's Playmate story and *Playmate Review* update (right) talked about her life in Maryland and Alaska, where she was discovered for PLAYBOY's February 1986 *Women of Alaska* feature, and about her interest in fitness. Not a word about how smart Miss February was. In 1996, when Mensa—the organization for card-carrying geniuses—celebrated its 50th anniversary, Julie (inset) was one of its principal spokespersons and source of media quotes. Julie is getting her doctorate in chiropractic medicine, having completed a five-year graduate program in three and a half. "Sometimes," she says with a sigh, "my wonderful PLAYBOY experience seems like a dream."





Miss May 1987 *Kymberly Paige*

The picture story accompanying Kym's centerfold (below) was shot at Oregon's top rodeo, the Pendleton Round-Up. Kym had always had a hankering for athletes—gridiron greats John Elway and Marcus Allen shared "ideal man" status with beach volleyball star Randy Stoklos on her Data Sheet—but after meeting a calf roper, she allowed as how she could fall for a cowpoke.



Miss March 1987

Marina Baker

When Playboy TV was launched in England, Marina (above and right)—now a correspondent for a London tabloid—showed up at the launch party with bright-blue tresses. A self-proclaimed bisexual, Marina prides herself on tweaking British sensibilities and is prone to titillating remarks.

"My breasts," she wrote in one magazine, "have names. Eugene, always an inch lower, even in puberty, is my left breast. John, ever so slightly smaller with a better areola, lives on the right."



Miss April 1987

Anna Clark

When her Playmate pictorial (left) appeared, Anna was busy putting final touches on a round-the-world trip. She took it, visiting Australia, Thailand, India, Kenya, Egypt, Greece and Holland, but returned to San Francisco. Like Tony Bennett she had left her heart there.

Miss June 1987 *Sandy Greenberg*

She first captivated PLAYBOY readers anonymously as "Maxine Legroom" (opposite center) in January 1987's spoof about the popular computer-generated TV host Max Headroom. She had five BMW motorcycles in her garage then, and she still bikes (with her gang of girlfriends, the Bushhogs, opposite top). Twice a cover girl (opposite, on the July 1987 issue), Sandy is now pursuing a photographic career as a single mom (daughter Elizabeth Marie is going into first grade) in the Pacific Northwest. "I live in the part of the country where it rains from the ground up," she declares.

PHOTOGRAPHER

STEPHEN WAYDA *on*

SANDY GREENBERG

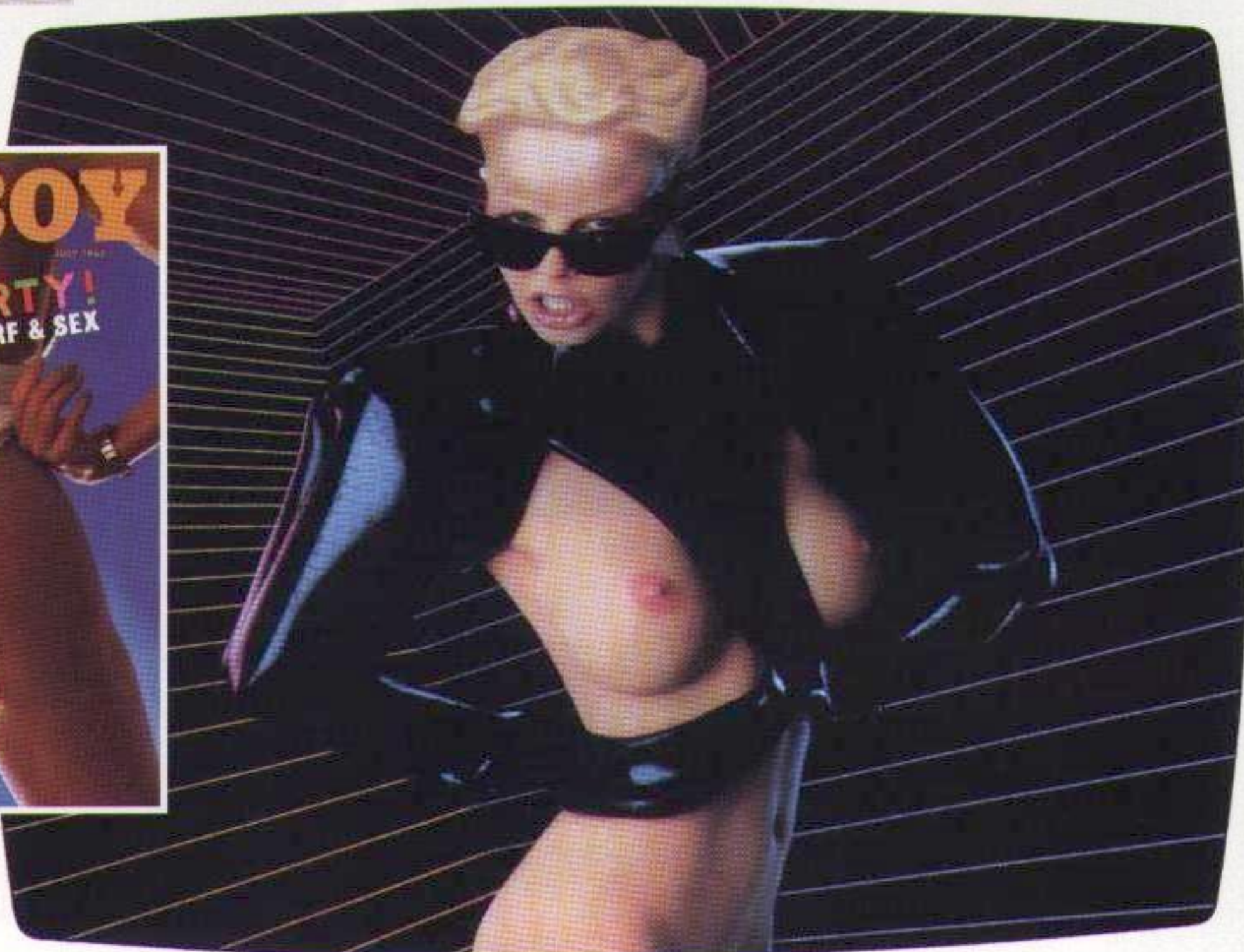
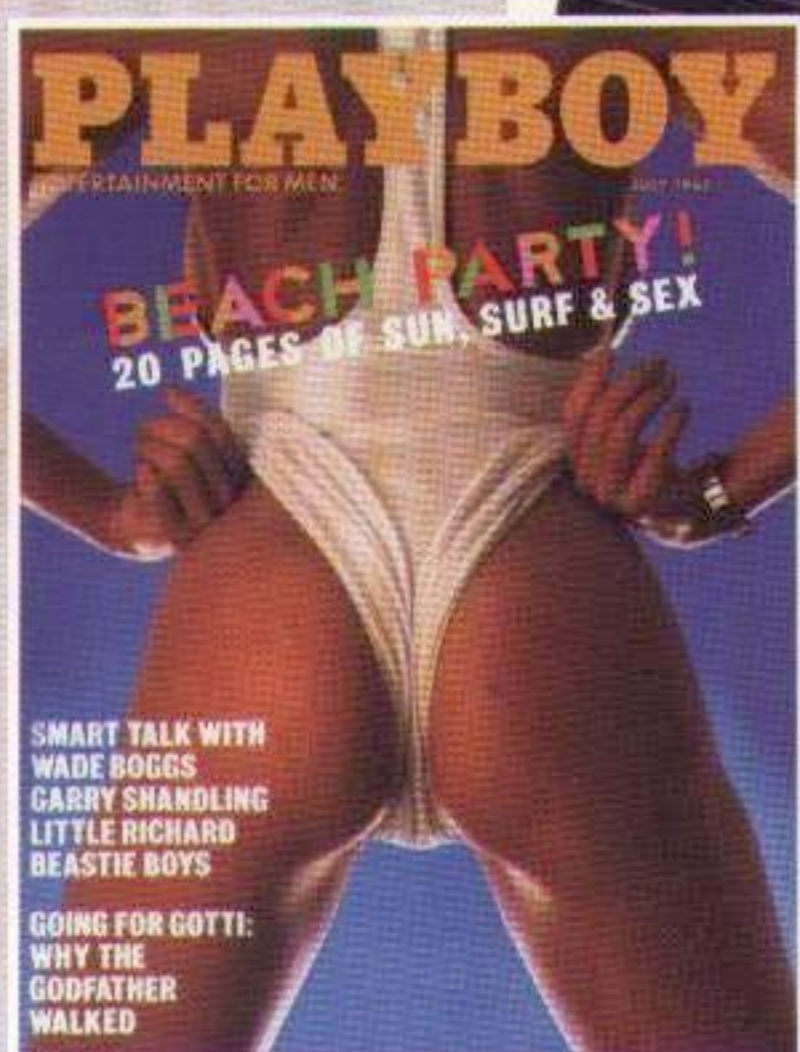
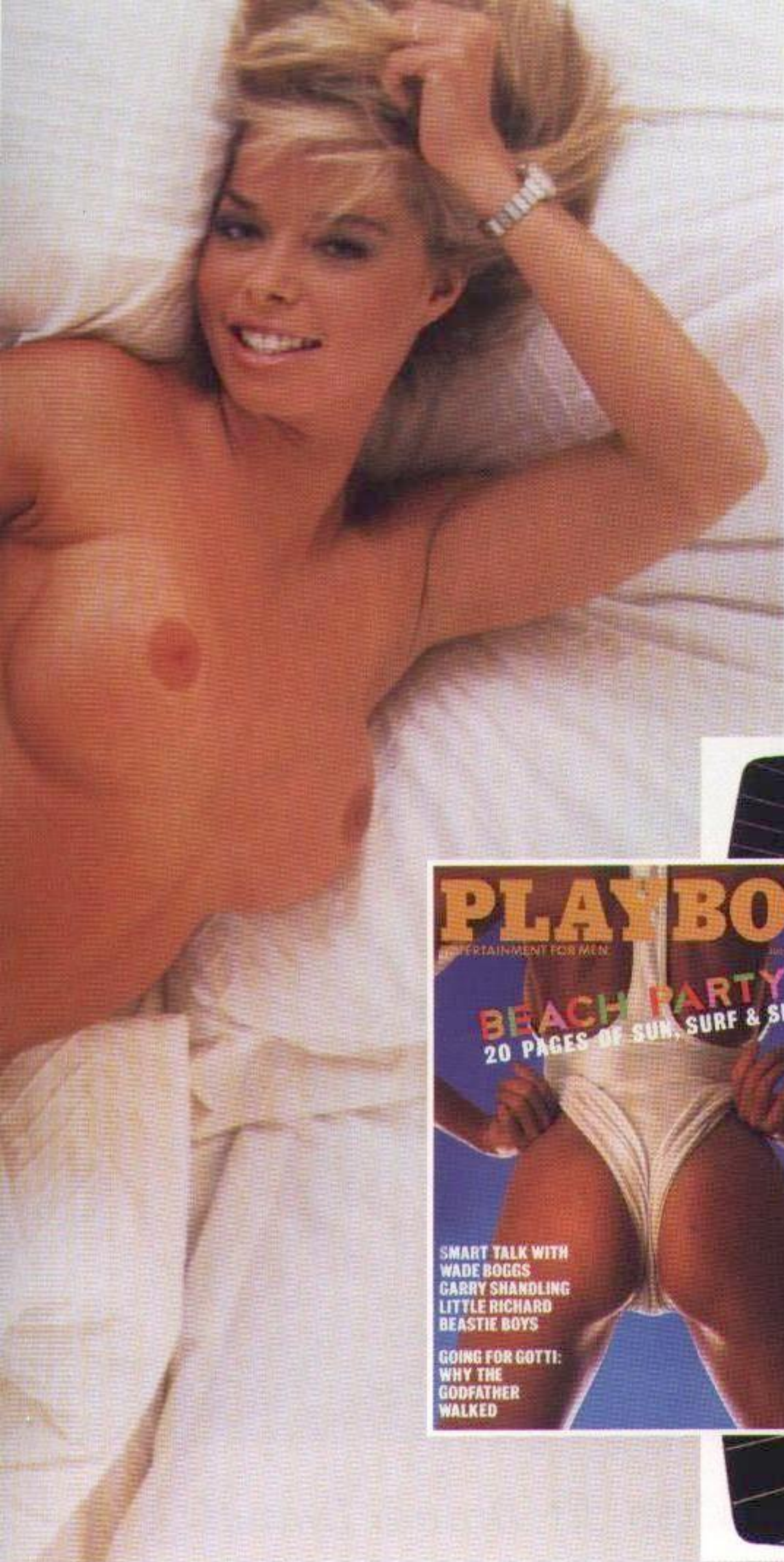
This woman oozed sex. A lot of times the centerfolds become very costumey, but hers was one of the simplest—just some white sheets—because with Sandy Greenberg it was real. You wanted to be the man who joined her on that bed.

Miss July 1987

Carmen Berg

The pride of Bismarck, North Dakota, Carmen had become a model in Chicago by the time her pictorial (right and below) appeared. On a fashion shoot, she met a photographer; the two married in 1990 and now own a photo studio. "No children yet, although they're definitely part of the plan," Carmen says. "For the time being, our three golden retrievers demand most of our affection." In 1993 Carmen created a consulting firm for models, actors and other creative people, and since 1994 has been repping "four of the best photographers in Chicago."





Miss August 1987 *Sharry Konopski*

To Sharry (right), being in *PLAYBOY* was "like pressing a rose in a book. Someday I'll be a grandma—might as well get a picture of it while I've still got it." After doing post-centerfold promotions, she returned to rural Washington State, started college, married a cabinetmaker and had two children. Then, heading home from work at the cleaning service she owned on April 1, 1995, Sharry says, "I had a really bad April Fool's Day." Swerving to avoid a trio of deer on the road, she hit loose gravel and rolled her Mustang. Sharry is now permanently paralyzed from the spinal cord injuries she suffered. Fellow Playmates and other celebrities (including Michael Jordan) attended a benefit to help Sharry buy needed equipment to get on with her life, which now focuses on her family and on safety talks to students.

"Hearing from somebody who survived a near-fatal car wreck seems to make an impact on these kids," she says. "They realize I'm there to give them some information that could save their lives."





Miss September 1987 *Gwendolyn Hajek*

Louisiana-born Gwen (left), who's of Arab-American descent, hailed from Shreveport, where she won a "Girl of My Dreams" beauty pageant at her high school. "I didn't think of myself as pretty until then," she said. "I was thin and flat-chested when I started high school." Posing for PLAYBOY, she reported, "was like a crash course in modeling"—one that paid off with a role in the movie *Traxx* and a *Star Search* spokesmodel competition.



Miss October 1987 *Brandi Brandt*

Brandi (above) was born into the music business. Her mother, Brie Howard, was a rock musician. "When I was a baby, I slept on her bass drum," Brandi told her PLAYBOY interviewer. Brandi herself has been married to Motley Crue bassist Nikki Sixx for five years.

They have three children; the youngest son, at age one, plays a guitar riff that's being mixed into Nikki's newest album. "Actually, my mother dated Nikki before I did," Brandi reveals. "We should have been on *Geraldo* or something. But we're all great friends."



Miss November 1987 *Pamela Jean Stein*

Like Brandi, Pam Stein (in her Playmate shooting, left) is married to a rock musician—in her case Cheap Trick singer Robin Zander. "We have a baby boy, aged three, and it's the most fun I've ever had," she reports (with family, inset). Pam and Robin met by chance. "He was doing an autograph session in a Tampa mall. I had won a shopping spree at the mall in a Miss Tampa Bay contest. I just walked into this record store to see what was going on, and there he was. And here we are, nine years later."

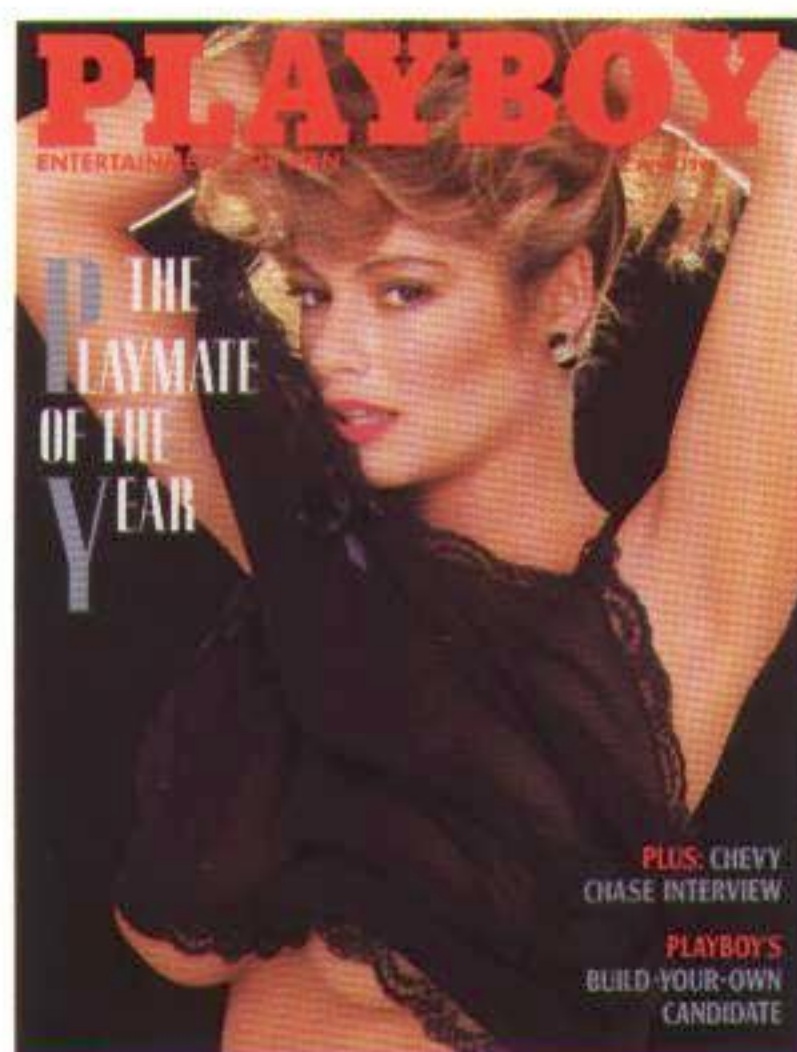


Miss December 1987

India Allen

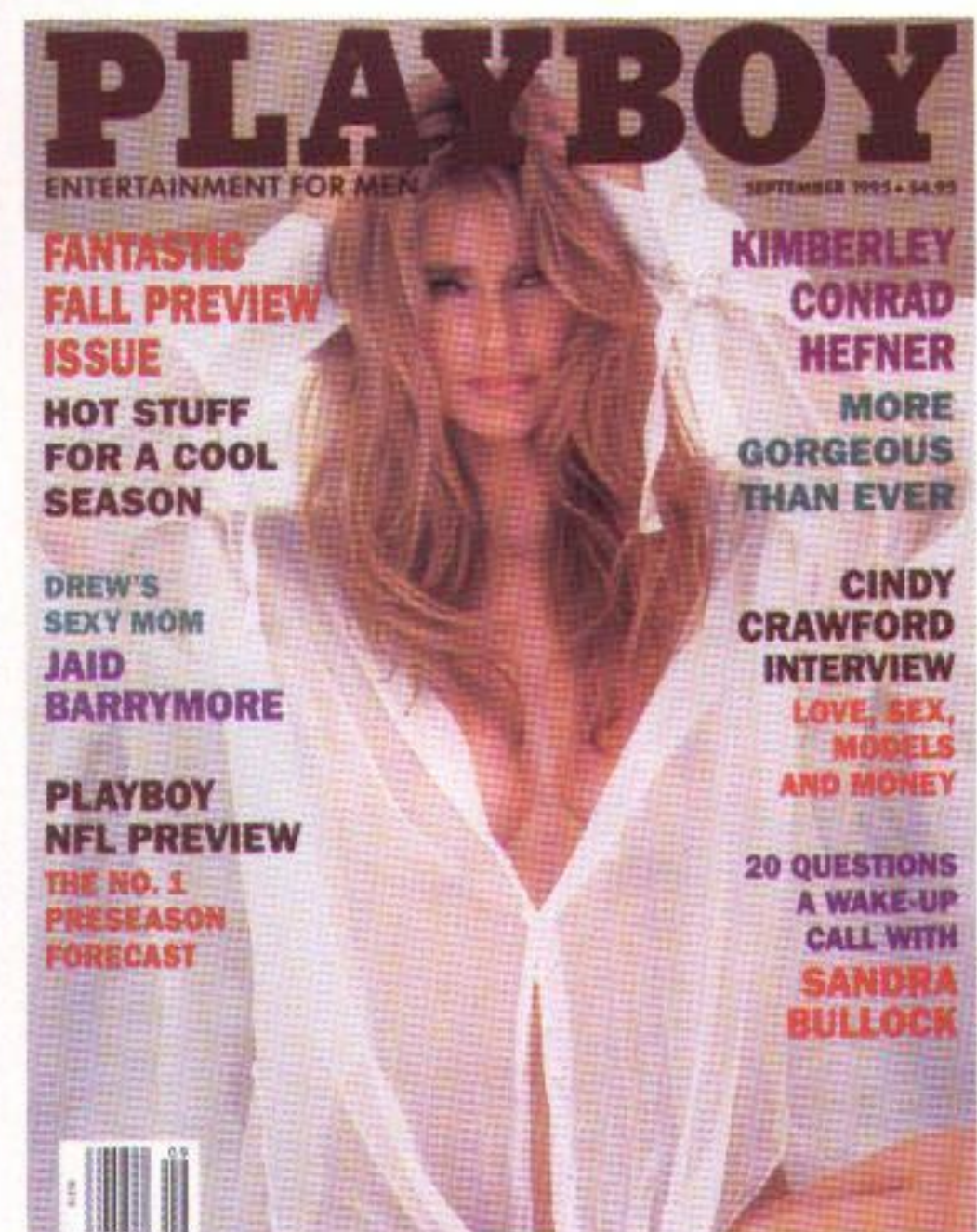
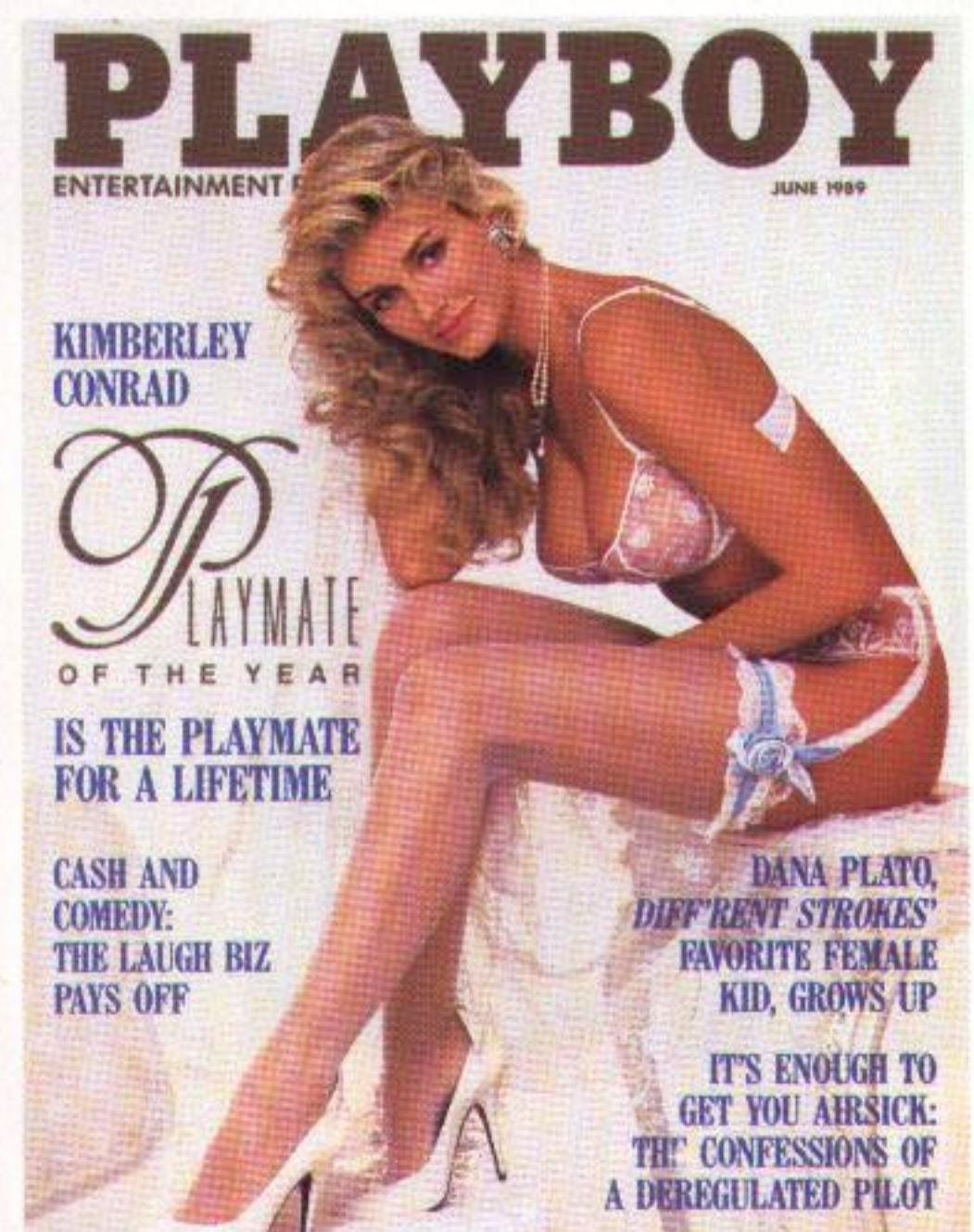
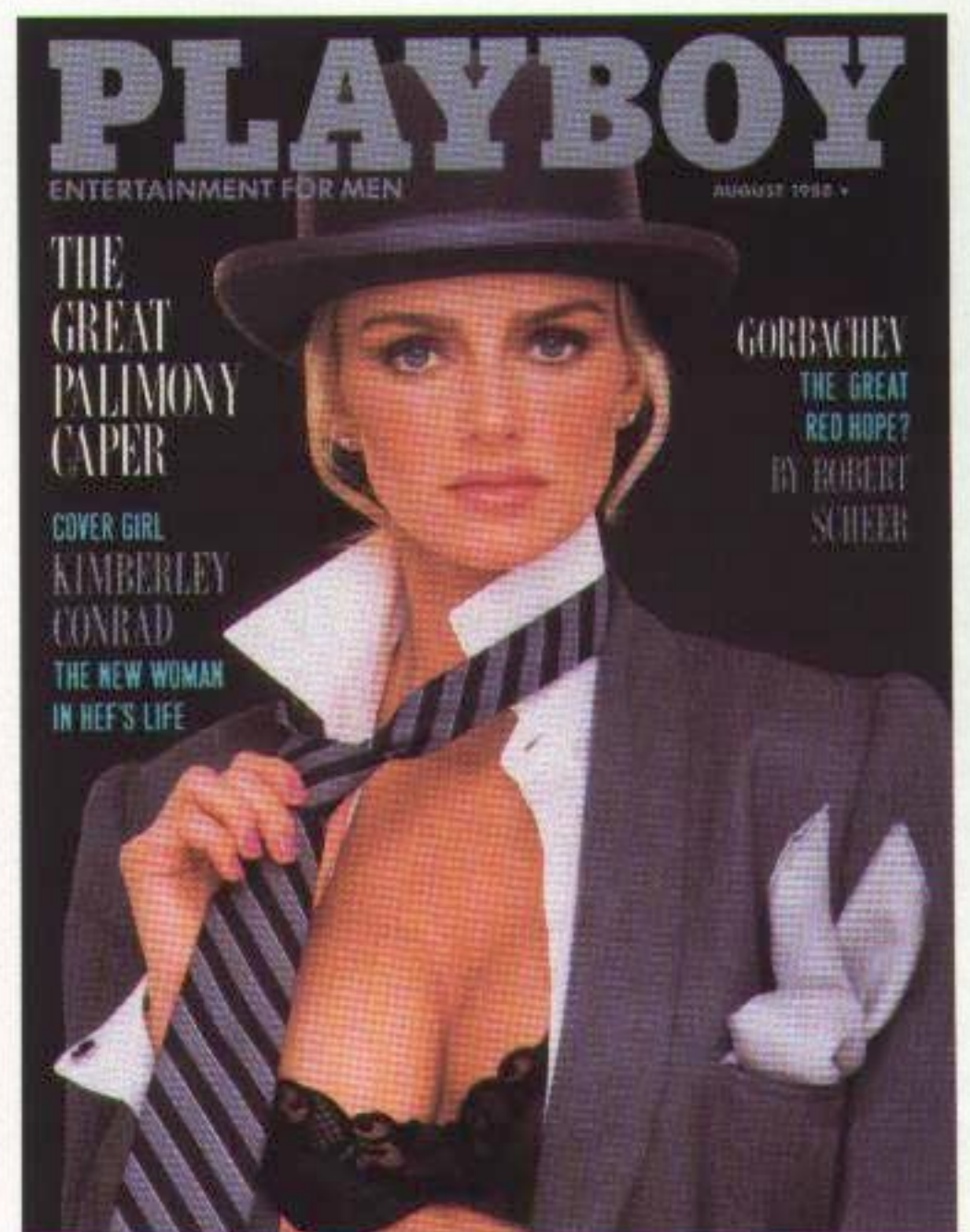
1988 Playmate of the Year

While touring for PLAYBOY after her PMOY pictorial (right) appeared, India met USA Network sports-caster Bill Macatee. They got married, had a daughter and divorced. "I waited about six years and now I'm married to an officer in the Marine Corps," India says. "This one's for keeps." There's a new baby, a boy. And plenty of work. She's made two features, *Wild Cactus*, "still a good renter at Blockbuster," and *Silk Degrees*, a USA world premiere movie. She stars in and co-produces films, including *Almost Hollywood*, a spoof of low-budget movies. A longtime cigar smoker, India has produced a personality profile and layout for *Cigar Aficionado*, featuring herself as that magazine's first female cover personality.



Miss January 1988
Kimberley Conrad Hefner
 1989 Playmate of the Year

"Gorgeous" and "unassuming" are adjectives that don't always pair easily. Add "down to earth" and you have the combination that converted the world's most eligible bachelor into a devoted husband and attentive father. Alabama-born Kimberley Conrad came from Canada to Los Angeles as a career move. She also told her PLAYBOY interviewer—tellingly, as it turned out—that she liked American men. "I think they treat their women better." At the time, she mentioned guys in tight jeans, but she soon fell for one in pajamas, and he was equally enchanted by her. On July 23, 1988 Hef popped the question in front of the Wishing Well on the grounds of Playboy Mansion West. The ceremony took place at the Mansion on July 1, 1989. Today the once-swinging property echoes to the sounds of children—the Hefners' two sons, Marston and Cooper—playing, and Mrs. Hefner is very much the mistress of the Mansion. Since it's a corporate property, she and Hef have recently purchased another house next door, where Kimberley can exert her own decorative taste and the boys can entertain their playmates without competing with Playmates. Motherhood has only enhanced Kimberley's beauty, as evidenced in a September 1995 PLAYBOY cover (bottom right) and pictorial with text by romance novelist Pat Booth.



WEST COAST PHOTO EDITOR

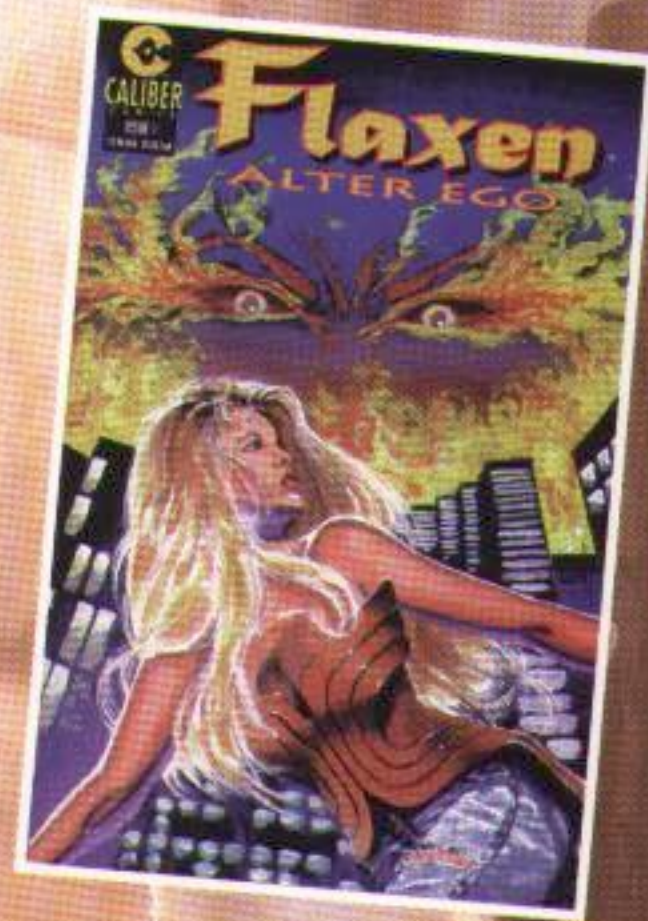
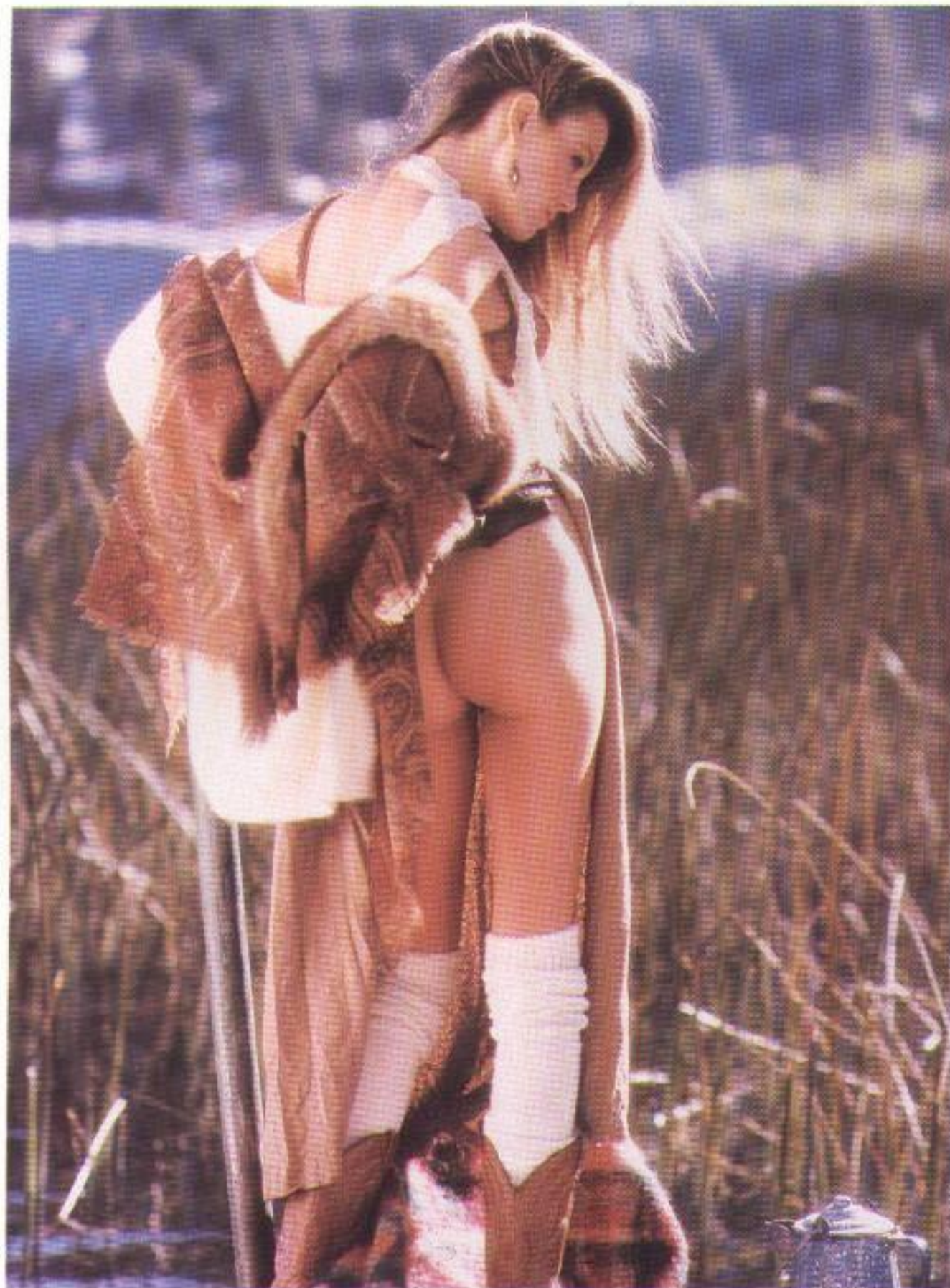
MARILYN GRABOWSKI on KIMBERLEY CONRAD HEFNER

Kimberley Hefner is a whole entity unto herself. She's probably my best friend. I spend a lot of time with her, at least seven or eight hours a week. She's amazing: her style, her taste, her perception, how she is with her kids. Kim's a very smart gal; she misses nothing. It's amazing to watch that mind at work. And if anything, she's more beautiful than ever. I talked her into posing for PLAYBOY again in 1995, and we did it without Hef's input. Kimberley said, "I don't want Hef involved in it." He got a little bit mad at me, but he ended up really liking it. They have a halcyon life. I think years from now it will probably be regarded as the love affair of the century.



Miss February 1988 *Kari Kennell*

Kari (below) shares a passion with her immediate predecessor in PLAYBOY's centerfold: animal rights. Both are active in People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Kari is an actress who appears in *The Phantom of the Mall*, *Men at Work* and the CD-ROM *Voyeur II*, as well as an extremely successful model who has frequently been photographed on the arm of Hollywood hunk Don Johnson since his split from Melanie Griffith.



Miss March 1988 *Susie Owens*

Susie and PLAYBOY go back a long way—to the November 1983 pictorial on nurses, *Women in White*. "PLAYBOY changed my life!" she says now. The nurse pictorial led to a TV show and personal counseling service on fitness, something she knew about. "I once weighed 178 pounds, which would have been about right if I stood 7'5". Rejected for the centerfold twice, Susie pared herself down sufficiently to appear as Miss March (above) at the age of 31. Since then, she has starred as Flaxen (left), a comic book inspired by her real life story, and markets Child, her own perfume. Susie still works as a nurse, licensed in Texas, California and Oklahoma, where she has been living while her daughter finishes high school. "PLAYBOY is like a tattoo," she says today. "It's with you for life. I've always been proud of it."





Miss April 1988

Eloise Broady

Eloise (left) had been married at 15—"I still had braces on my teeth"—and already had two strapping sons, Justin, then 10, and Michael, 15, when *PLAYBOY* placed her in its centerfold. That got her to Hollywood and parts in *Weekend at Bernie's*, *Troop Beverly Hills* and other features. "Being a Playmate was great, because I did a lot of modeling and as a single mom I needed the income that came from it." Three years ago she married John Paul De Joria, owner of Paul Mitchell hair care products. "I do all the commercials and the ads"—like the one with her husband, below. She also helped set



up and run six Health and Wellness Centers of America in her home state of Texas. "We help the elderly and mentally ill, people who have no money, and it feels really good to be involved."

Miss May 1988 *Diana Lee*

The daughter of Chinese immigrant parents, Diana (below) is a talented pianist, flautist and dancer with a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Utah. In the year of her Playmate appearance, she enrolled in graduate school, played a ninja assassin in the James Bond movie *Licence to Kill* and married her *PLAYBOY* photographer, Stephen Wayda. They are now divorced.





Miss June 1988

Emily Arth

The daughter of a former opera singer and a man whose jobs took him around the world, Emily (left and below left) had crisscrossed most of the globe by the time she arrived at PLAYBOY's offices in Chicago and posed for her Playmate layout. "I was married, and that gave me a kind of safety net," she says. "We've been married ten years now and he's always been very supportive. I think the people in the company where I worked were shocked, though. I seemed so mild-mannered, I don't think they expected it of me. After the initial shock, being a Playmate was kind of cool. My husband and I both say I'd do it again in a heartbeat." Emily and her spouse, a creative director for a Manhattan ad agency, have three children.



PHOTOGRAPHER

RICHARD FEGLEY on EMILY ARTH

The first pictorial I worked on for PLAYBOY was going to be called *The Girls of New England*, but it was never published. I went to a place called New Harbor, Maine, which was a lobster village, and that's where I shot Emily, because she looked like a New England type of person. The pictorial just got filed away and everybody else forgot about it, but Emily eventually did move to New England.

Miss July 1988 Terri Lynn Doss

"In my Data Sheet, I wrote that by 1998 I would be married, a mother and deliriously happy." After that entry, Terri Lynn (right) drew a smiley face. "Well, in 1996 I'm the mother of two little girls and going through a divorce, but I'm pretty happy." She lives in Arizona, but commutes from time to time to Los Angeles for auditions and the like. "Right now I'm working with a record producer and writing some of my own music. That's something I've wanted to do since I was a little girl. My mom used to sell tickets for a nickel when I vamped as Cher."





Miss August 1988 *Helle Michaelsen*

"After I finished shooting for PLAYBOY, I went back to Denmark," says Helle (left). "There I found PLAYBOY had opened doors for me in many ways. I did a lot of television and films in Europe." She returned to California and now works as an esthetician and makeup artist. Helle's "ultimate goal," she says, is to have a family, "but I don't have anybody in mind as the father right now. You know, I think as we get older we get more picky."

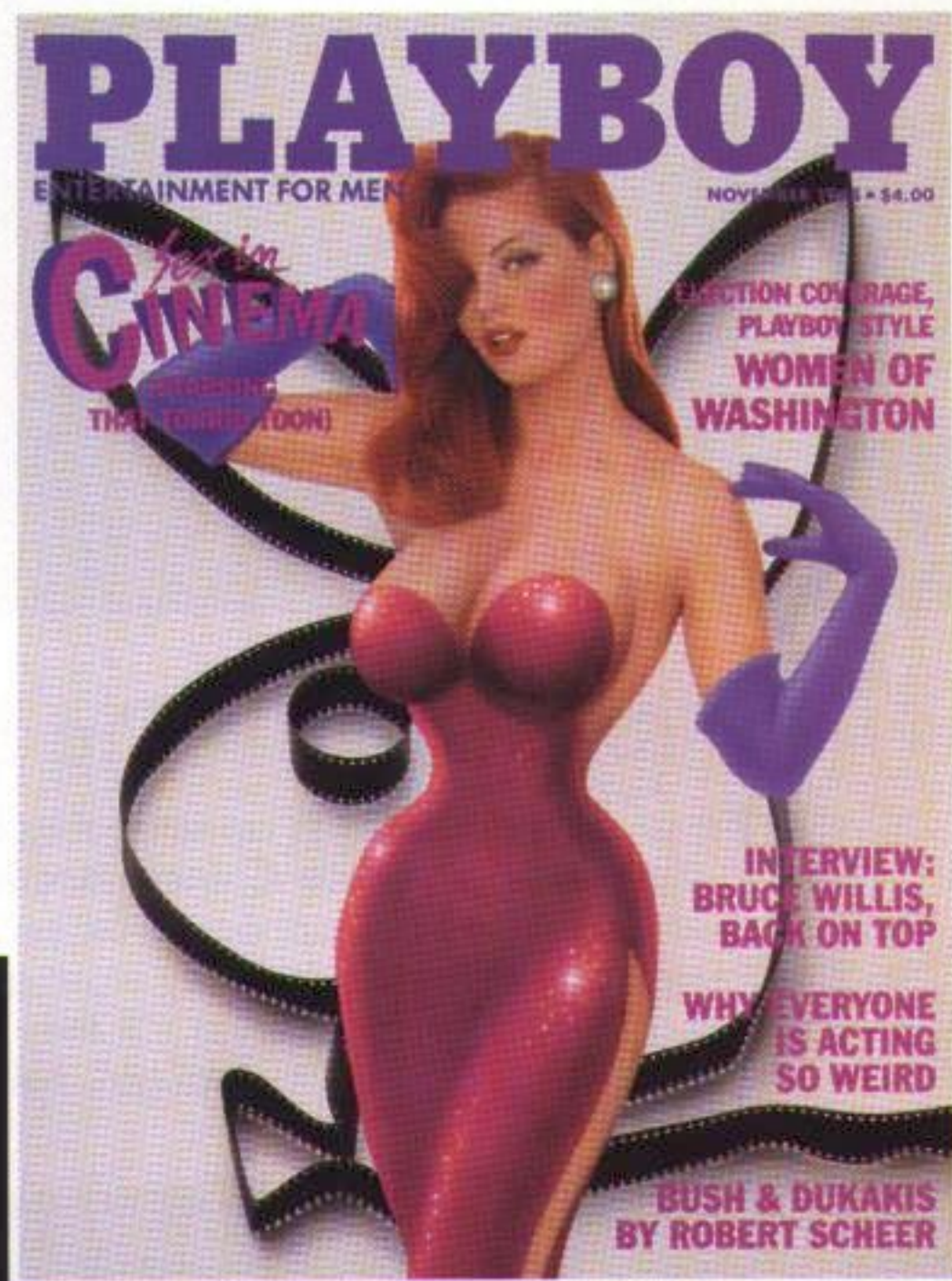
Miss September 1988

Laura Richmond

The moment PLAYBOY's Marilyn Grabowski laid eyes on Laura Richmond (bottom), she was reminded of Jessica Rabbit, Toontown mate of cartoon star Roger Rabbit.

Laura took on Jessica's persona for the magazine's November 1988 cover (below). After that, Laura went back to Occidental College and earned a degree in

English and comparative literature (inset). "In 1991 I was seriously injured in a bad auto accident. The person behind me was an RN who had a car phone, and she called in a helicopter. I never found out who she was. Now I volunteer at a local hospital in Texas, where I grew up. I want to give something back to the people who came to my hospital bed, and to kids who are scared when they're sick."





Miss October 1988 *Shannon Long*

PLAYBOY's only Australian-born centerfold, Shannon (left and above) tried living other places but kept returning to her home base in Surfers Paradise on that continent's Gold Coast. In 1994 she posed down under for a *Playmates Revisited* layout and returned to the U.S. to shoot an ad campaign for home-country product Foster's Lager.

Miss November 1988 *Pia Reyes*

Pia (right and below) is an intriguing blend of Filipino-Spanish-Portuguese-Chinese ancestry. She has pursued acting and has appeared on such shows as *The Young and the Restless*. "If they want a blonde," she observes. "If they want an Oriental girl, here I am."



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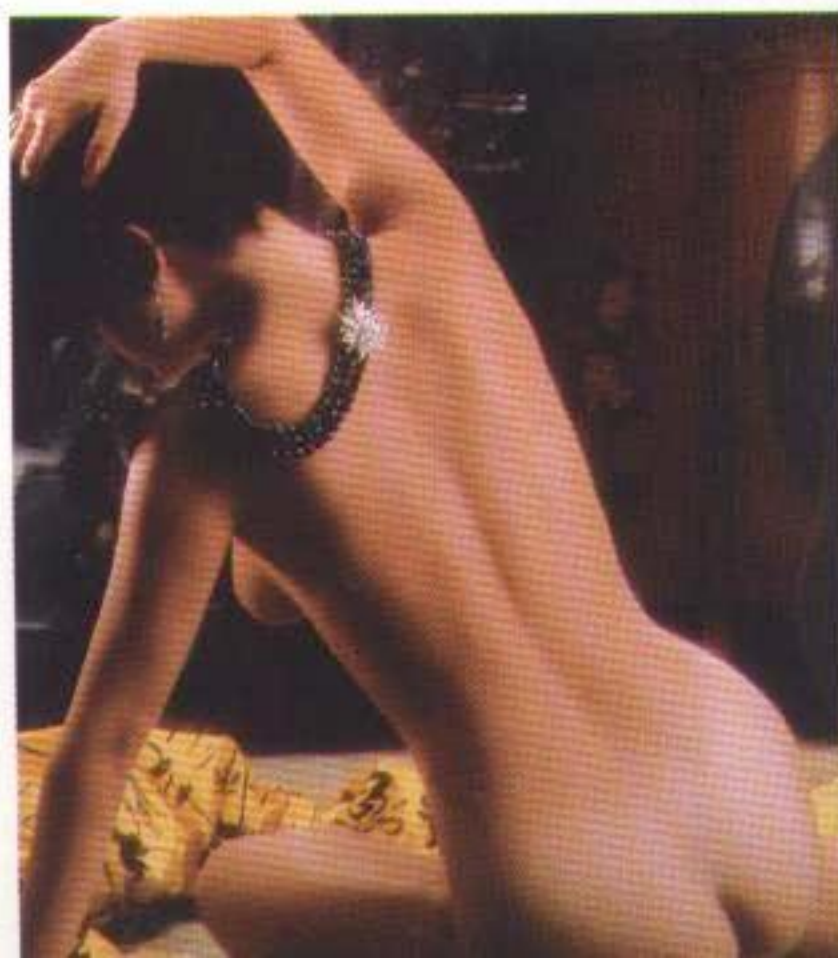
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Miss December 1988

Kata Kärkkäinen

Returning home to Finland after posing for PLAYBOY in America, Kata found herself "quite a celebrity. I had as many interviews as I could possibly do, both for newspapers and on television." She also signed a contract with a Finnish record company. When she wasn't working, Kata enjoyed traveling—to London, Italy and the Canary Islands, "which are full of Scandinavians and English people trying to get tans."





Miss January 1989

*Fawna
MacLaren*

*35th Anniversary
Playmate*

Tall and skinny when she went to Beverly Hills High, Fawna thought she was ugly. She'd filled out by the time she took a trip to Paris, where she was discovered by *Elle*. Even then, she was surprised when she saw herself on the cover. ("That girl's pretty," she thought. "Wait a minute, that girl's me!") But it was her *PLAYBOY* shoot, she said, that really made her feel beautiful.



WEST COAST PHOTO EDITOR

MARILYN GRABOWSKI *on*

FAWNA MACLAREN

I was at Brigitte Nielsen's engagement party, and Fawna was engaged to Brigitte's brother. I saw Fawna across the room, and I said to Giorgio Moroder, "God, that's a beautiful girl," and he said, "Oh, do you want to meet her?" He'd never met her either, I found out. I thought his interest was not totally professional. But he brought her over and I said, "Hi. How would you like to be the 35th Anniversary Playmate?" and she said, "Yeah, why not?"



Miss March 1989 *Laurie Wood*

It was Laurie's idea to do a PLAYBOY centerfold (below) as a birthday present for her husband, a yeoman in the Coast Guard. She had what many considered an old-fashioned attitude about sex: Save it for marriage, and then let loose all that libido on the honeymoon. "We've been married ten years now, and he's still awesome," Laurie says from her home in the Pacific Northwest. "We have two little children, two years apart, and I train horses and compete in shows. That gets me into shape faster than anything." Laurie and her husband operate a business based on networking and motivational speaking.



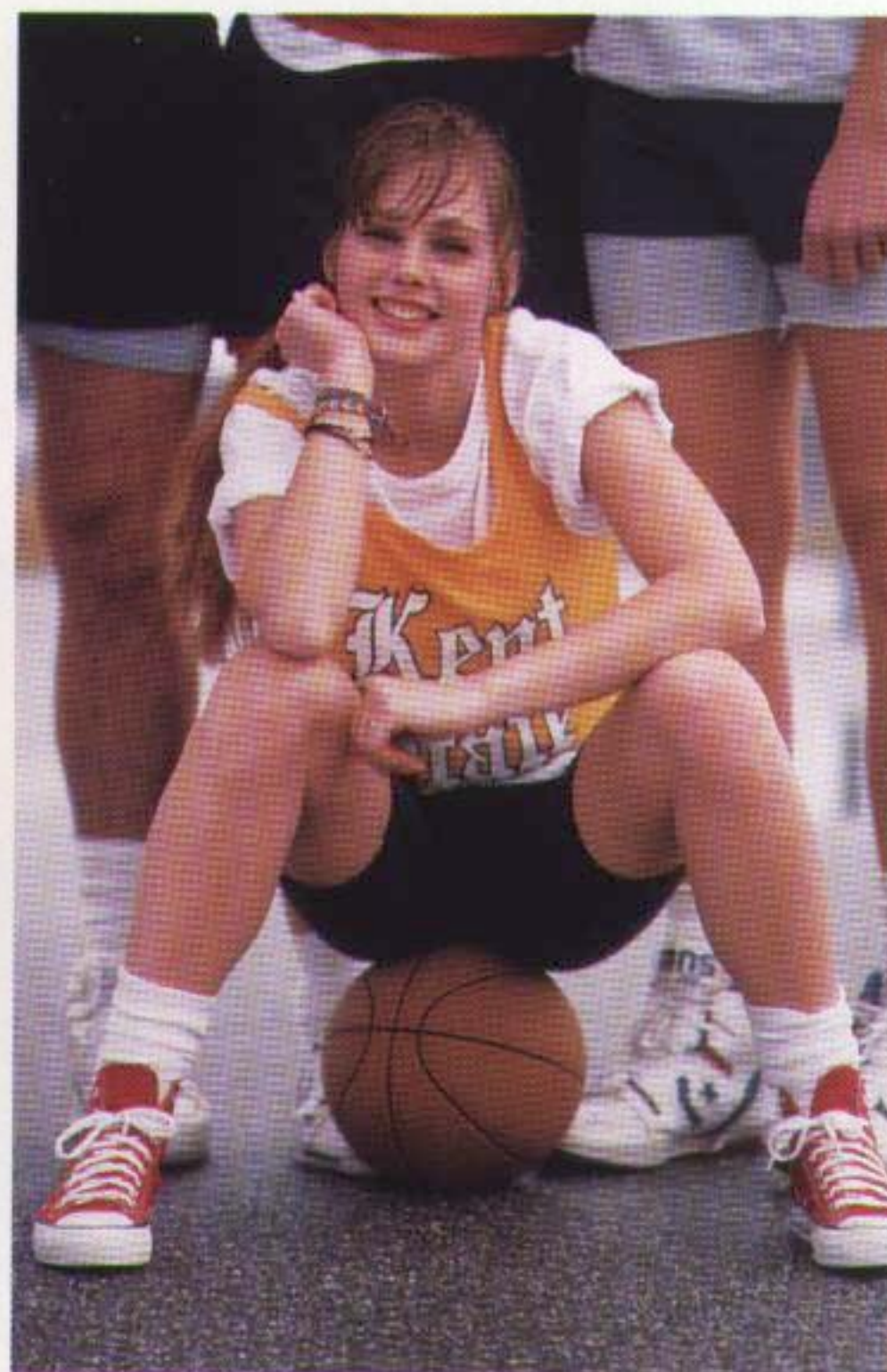
Miss February 1989 *Simone Eden*

The first second-generation Playmate, Simone (above) is the daughter of Miss December 1960, Carol Eden. Like Mom, with whom she appears below, Simone is a nurse. She's also a singer. "I was in Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll show for years," she reports, "and now I'm in a recording group, a four-girl country group called the Denim Dolls. We all dance and sing harmony, kind of like the Andrews Sisters."





Miss April 1989 *Jennifer Jackson*



Jennifer (near and far left) was a coed at Ohio's Kent State University when she linked up with PLAYBOY. She got that degree. "I graduated with honors in 1991, with a double major in business management and finance. I worked for a bank for a while, but I got sick of the snow and picked up and moved—left everyone and everything—and headed for Florida." Now working for a company that researches benefits and compliance, Jennifer has a side job, too. "I'm a promotional assistant for a classic rock radio station."

Miss May 1989 *Monique Noel*

"I spent five years in L.A. doing the acting thing, then lived in the mountains for a year and a half. That was fun, but I decided I needed to get a real job." Monique's "acting thing" included guest appearances on TV's *Blossom* and *Herman's Head* and parts in movies. She was Bugsy's moll Lola in *Mobsters* and Jim's girlfriend in *Bert Rigby*. Then there was a hair-product infomercial in which she pulled out pieces of her tresses. "That thing ran eight months, and I'd have people come up to me and ask, 'Do you have snaps sewn on your scalp?'" Still single, Monique (below) says she hasn't "found that soulmate yet, but I'm still on the hunt." Today's "real job" is in the customer service department for a firm that produces made-to-order postcards.





PHOTOGRAPHER

ARNY FREYTAG *on*

**TAWNNI
CABLE**

Tawnni is one of the sexiest women I have ever met. I did a video cover on her at a friend's pool. He's married with kids and never, ever looks at another woman. And he said, "I'm going to go watch the football game." Just then Tawnni walked out and he went, "Oops! I'm not going anywhere." She was fully clothed, but she had such a style and presence about her.

Miss June 1989 *Tawnni Cable*

If it hadn't been for PLAYBOY, Tawnni (above) says, "I'd have probably been working in a mall in Oregon, where I came from." What she didn't expect to be was an actress. "I'm junk as an actress," she told the staffer who interviewed her for PLAYBOY. But all it took was some training. In California, where she now lives on a ranch with her boyfriend and several horses, Tawnni is "studying acting big time," and it seems to be paying off. She has played on numerous TV episodes and in the TV movie *Bobby and Marilyn*.



Miss August 1989 *Gianna Amore*

The youngest of seven sisters in a "super Italian" household, Gianna (above) grew up in Narragansett, Rhode Island. A modeling firm offered her a week's trip to California; she fell in love with L.A., joined the ranks of Hollywood hopefuls and was soon cast in Universal's comedy *Screwball Hotel*. On her PLAYBOY shoot in the British Virgin Islands, Gianna caught the attention of bar patrons at the White Bay Sandcastle Hotel on Jost Van Dyke (below).







Miss July 1989

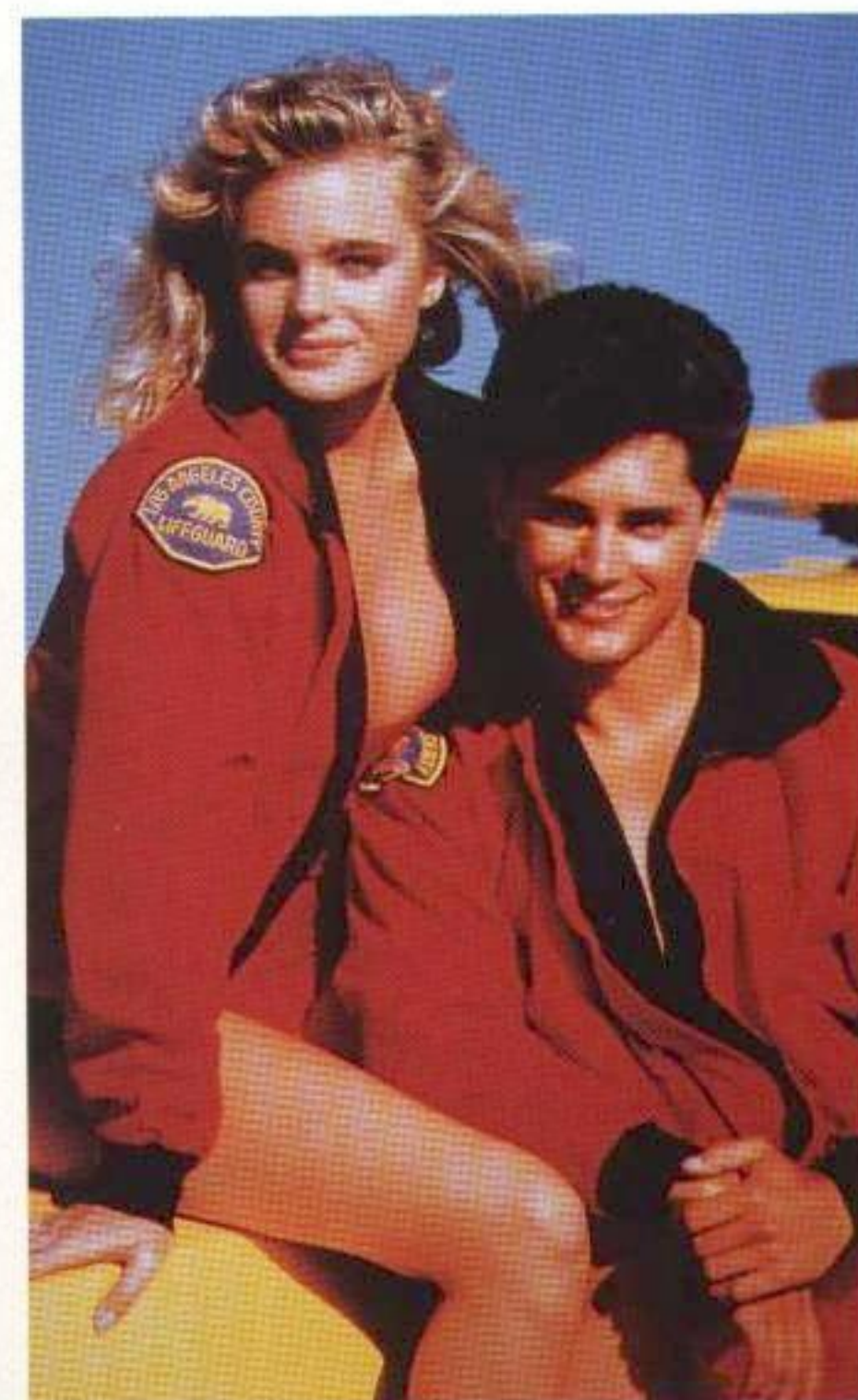
Erika Eleniak

Years before, she had played young Elliot's girlfriend on *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*. Now, the pretty 19-year-old blonde told her Playmate interviewer, she was excited about a TV pilot she had just taped. Seemed as if NBC might pick it up. It did. The show was *Baywatch*, and Erika starred as Shauni McLain (with David Charvet, bottom) in the 1989-92 seasons. She has since compiled a trunkful of credits, always performing with top-drawer co-stars. Propelled by PLAYBOY, she starred



opposite Steven Seagal in *Under Siege* and played Elly May Clampett in 1993's feature-film version of *The Beverly Hillbillies*, in which her companions included Cloris Leachman,

Dabney Coleman and Lily Tomlin. She played opposite William Baldwin and John Leguizamo in *A Pyromaniac's Love Story*, Dennis Hopper and Tom Berenger in *Chasers* and Valerie Perrine in *Girl in the Cadillac*. Her most recent release is *Tales From the Crypt Presents Bordello of Blood*, in which she's a Bible-thumping client who hires a detective (comedian Dennis Miller) to find her missing brother. Multimedia fans can also find Erika in the interactive mystery *Panic in the Park*. In fact, they can see Erika in duplicate: She plays identical twins.





Misses September 1989

Mirjam and Karin van Breeschooten

When they saw their first copy of *PLAYBOY*—the American original, not the Dutch version—the Van Breeschooten twins laughed. They saw the tan lines on the Playmate's breasts and wondered why she had kept her top on. Nudity is less of a big deal in Holland, where the twins came from—and where they were spotted by *PLAYBOY*'s Dutch counterparts. "We don't really care about what people think of our posing nude," Karin said at the time. "If you are walking down a nude beach on a sunny day, they are also looking at you, so what is the difference?" How to tell the double Dutch treats apart? Karin's on the right in their centerfold shot (below), the one with a tiny birthmark near her mouth. After their *PLAYBOY* debut, the twins returned home, where they continued to model and, as job insurance, enrolled in bookkeeping courses.





Miss October 1989

Karen Foster

In her Playmate story, Karen (above) talked about visiting Europe's topless beaches. "I was a tad uncomfortable at first, but when you see 70-year-old women sunning sans tops, you wonder at your own embarrassment." A former cheerleader for the NBA's Houston Rockets, Karen studied accounting and computer science at the University of Houston while modeling on the side. She appears in many PLAYBOY videos and was a member of the Girls of Rock and Roll in Las Vegas. Still based in Texas, she travels extensively. "Right now I'm working on an interactive Web site and negotiating a deal to co-host a sports show."



Miss December 1989

Petra Verkaik

Hers is one of those unforgettable Playmate stories: the one in which Petra (left and below) was run over by her own VW van in the parking lot next to PLAYBOY's offices in Los Angeles—and was saved from serious injury by her ample breasts. At Glamourcon in April 1996 she was



busily signing autographs and talking about her most recent TV outing, a May episode of *Married...With Children*. "I'm in one of Al's dream sequences," she said, "because you know in Al's real life he doesn't get the women."

Miss November 1989

Reneé Tenison

1990 Playmate of the Year

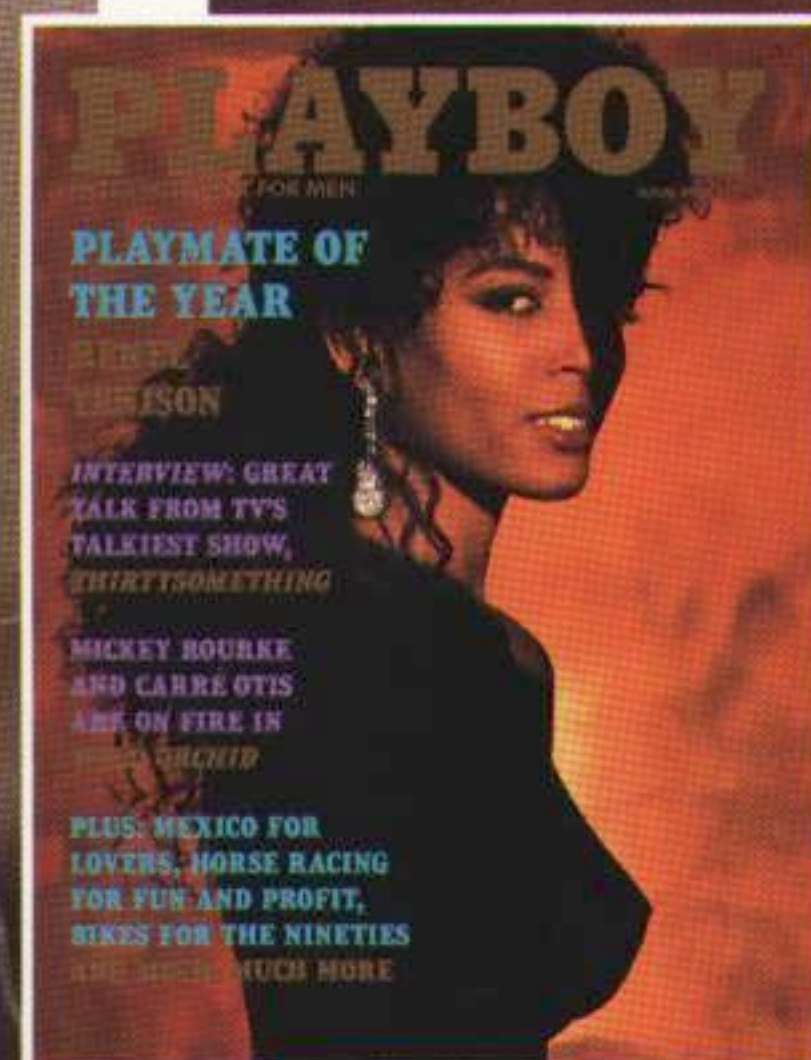
"This year has been really good for me," says PLAYBOY's first PMOY of African American descent. She's talking about 1996, in which, she says, "I did six episodes of a show called *Sherman Oaks*, on Showtime, playing the part of Tina, a kind of neurotic type who's a business-oriented aerobics instructor. Then I play Kendra Baxter in a new show called *L.A. Heat*. She's the wife of a man who's running a youth center. I'm still single, and have been living in the L.A. area five years now with my twin sister, Rosie. I spend a lot of time in acting classes, and I paint. I want to have something to show for my spare time." Spare time? In the previous few months, Reneé had done guest shots on *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, *Living Single*, *Martin*, *Family Matters* and *The Crew*. She lifts weights, works out and, when possible, takes off with Rosie to visit the rest of the family back in Idaho.



PLAYBOY STAFFER

WALTER LOWE on RENEÉ TENISON

Reneé didn't want to address the political and social implications of being the first black Playmate of the Year. She confessed that she had mostly white friends in her small town Idaho high school and had mixed feelings about her race being the headline factor in her being selected as Playmate of the Year. On the one hand, I felt that she was being true to herself and her personal experience, and I admired her for that. On the other, I felt that, whether she wanted to acknowledge it or not, she had crossed an invisible threshold in the American concept of beauty. Now, two or three black Miss Americas later, I am convinced that, in the end, she was right. She didn't really have to say anything about it. Simply being who she was, a beautiful African American woman, was enough.







THE NINETIES





Miss January 1990

Peggy McIntaggart

Ontario-born Peggy (left) met her husband, an Olympic athlete, on a golf course at a charity event she was attending for PLAYBOY. Peggy is an actress whose credits include starring roles in *Millennium Countdown*, *Lady Avenger* and *Phoenix*, *The Warriors* and guest shots on TV's *Herman's Head*, *Married...With Children* and *Baywatch*. She also does makeup and creates jewelry with crystals.



Miss March 1990 Deborah Driggs

Deborah (above) is married to Mitch Gaylord, an Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics (1984). "We have a son and a daughter, and I'm a full-time mommy." Deborah posed for PLAYBOY to earn the money for acting classes. That's where she met Mitch. "We didn't speak during the entire first year, but at the end of it the teacher, Joanne Barron, paired us up for a scene in which we had to kiss." (Her Prince Charming, her Data Sheet declared, would be "a great kisser.") "By the time the second year was over, we knew more about each other than people who'd been married ten, 15 years. So we are really, really good friends as well as lovers."

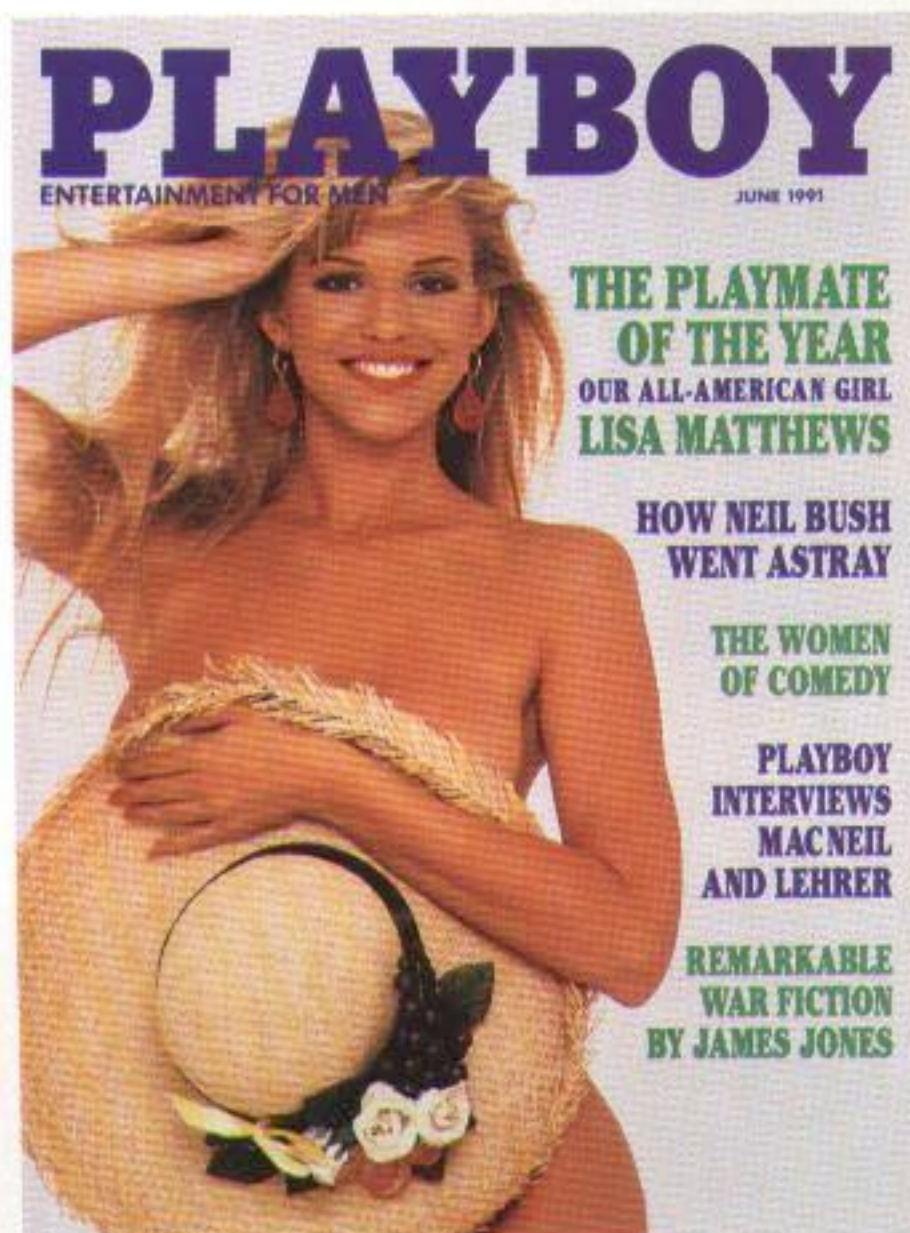
Previous spread: Jenny McCarthy, Miss October 1993 and 1994 Playmate of the Year.

Miss April 1990

Lisa Matthews

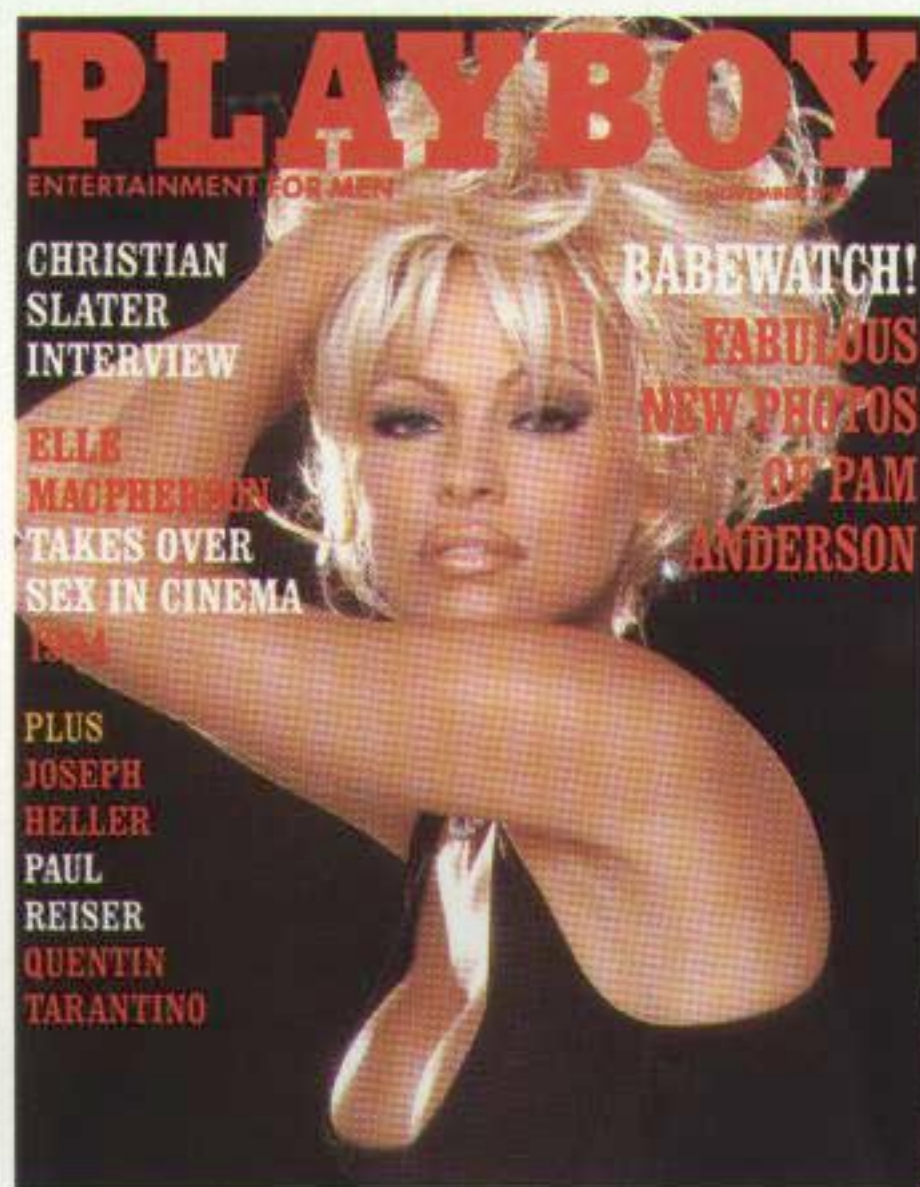
1991 Playmate of the Year

Lisa, along with Kimberley Conrad Hefner, was one of the prime movers of Operation Playmate, a letter-writing campaign that boosted the morale of servicemen during Operation Desert Storm and its prelude, Desert Shield. Now living on the East Coast, Lisa has become active on the horse-show circuit. "And I'm traveling a lot to Europe with my boyfriend." He's the high-powered movie producer Joel Silver of *Die Hard*, *Executive Decision* and *Escape from L.A.* fame.



Miss February 1990 *Pamela Anderson*

She's the single most popular blonde on the planet, and the world just can't get enough of her. With *PLAYBOY* as her springboard, the fresh-faced blonde from Ladysmith, British Columbia has become a multimedia phenomenon. Hers is the most requested image on the Internet. On a single day, so many fans logged onto Prodigy to chat with her that the service actually crashed and had to be restarted. She helped make *Baywatch* (below) the most popular syndicated show on television and set a record for most *PLAYBOY* cover appearances by a single person (six). Her *Playboy Centerfold Video* was number one on the *Billboard* Video Sales chart for 12 straight weeks—and is still a best-seller in its second year. Since her marriage to rocker Tommy Lee and the birth of their son, Brandon, Pam has also become the favorite celeb of supermarket tabloids.



WEST COAST
PHOTO EDITOR

MARILYN GRABOWSKI

on

PAMELA ANDERSON
LEE

I saw Pamela's composite and had her photographed for the cover of our college issue in 1989. I told her she had a career ahead of her and offered to introduce her to a lot of people, and she finally decided to go for the centerfold. She wasn't at all comfortable with being sexy. How times change.



PHOTOGRAPHER

STEPHEN WAYDA on

PAMELA
ANDERSON
LEE

Of all the Playmates, there's a specialness to Pam. She is a woman who isn't at all shy about enjoying sex, and I think that's one of the factors that has propelled her into stardom, because men wish that such honesty toward sex were in their lives, and women wish they could be that honest. She had that fire in the belly, which gave her the desire and energy and smarts to make something out of the opportunities that were presented to her.



Miss May 1990 *Tina Bockrath*

Tina (bottom), who has a bachelor's degree in theater arts from St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, expected to get into acting when she became a Playmate. Instead, to her surprise, she landed a job on *News Front*, the news magazine show on Playboy TV. "I did it for five years and it was great," she says. Tina interviewed a host of celebrities, including Tom Selleck (below). Tina has been married for two years to the butler at Playboy Mansion West who carried in her luggage on her first day in Los Angeles. Her ties to PLAYBOY endure: She helped conduct photo research for this book.



PHOTOGRAPHER

POMPEO POSAR *on*

TINA BOCKRATH

I put a giant poster of Tina up by my desk, but a woman who used to work here protested, "How come this naked picture is here?" I said, "But this is PLAYBOY!" The picture is still up.



Miss June 1990 *Bonnie Marino*

Cleveland-born Bonnie, who grew up in Lodi, California, was a medical assistant when she posed for her centerfold (above). At that time, she and her husband had no children.

Today, she says, "I'm at home raising our kids—a son who started kindergarten this year and a daughter who's two [inset]. My husband and I have been married 12 years now, so I must be doing something right. Eventually I'm thinking about going back to school, taking some psychology classes and finishing my bachelor's degree."





Miss July 1990 *Jacqueline Sheen*

She still water-skis barefoot, but not in Florida. Married and the proud mother of a two-year-old son who may soon be able to do it, too—"his feet are almost as big as mine"—she has exchanged the shores of the Gulf of Mexico for those of the Pacific Ocean. While promoting her centerfold (above) in Los Angeles, Jackie met the man she married, a dealer in rare documents. "We eloped to France the month after my centerfold." Growing up, Jacqueline didn't have the luxury of having her mother with her, because her mother was working. "Now I want to give my son what I didn't get, and that is his mom's time. I'm really fortunate to be able to do it."

Miss August 1990 *Melissa Evridge*

Before her centerfold appearance (below), Melissa debuted in the October 1989 issue as the beauty chosen to close the *Girls of the Southeastern Conference* pictorial. Melissa has since earned her degree in psychology and still lives in Kentucky. "I'm married and happy being a mom. We have two children, a four-year-old daughter and a son who's just over a year old."



Miss September 1990

Kerri Kendall

Kerri (right) has remained in the San Diego area, but she left her job at the clinic where she worked when she became a centerfold. "I went to cosmetology school, got my license and became a hair extension specialist," she says. That's what she's still doing, along with a Playboy Video and posing for Playboy Newsstand Specials (among them *Denim Daze* and *Playmates in Paradise*). "PLAYBOY is one of the best things I've ever done," Kerri says. "It helped me mature, gave me opportunities to travel to places I'd never seen otherwise. I didn't come from money." At 26, Kerri says, "marriage is not on the agenda for a while. My cat Beavis is the only man I want to live with right now."





Miss October 1990 *Brittany York*

London-born, Hong Kong-bred Brittany (above) came to California to study computer science. The former hostess of *Beachclash* and the dental hygienist who got Jerry Seinfeld hot and bothered, she also plays the lead role of Cat on the recently resurrected syndicated show *Acapulco H.E.A.T.* In 1994 she was the cover girl for *Sport* magazine's swimsuit issue, and hosted a special on the subject for ESPN.

Miss December 1990 *Morgan Fox*

Two years before appearing in *PLAYBOY's* centerfold, Morgan (below) traveled to Málaga, Spain to represent her homeland as Miss World Canada. She roped steers as a youngster in Kamloops, British Columbia, which helped her get a part for a rodeo scene in the TV series *The Adventures of the Black Stallion*. Later, Morgan demonstrated a comic bent with roles in the film spoofs *Flesh Gordon Meets the Cosmic Cheerleaders* and *Stay Tuned*, with John Ritter and Pam Dawber, in which she played a babe called the Babe.



Miss November 1990

Lorraine Olivia

A former flight attendant, Lorraine (in 1990, above, and today, inset) has held firm to an objective first stated in her Playmate story: to become a third-grade teacher. Lorraine has transferred to a four-year college in the Chicago area and has also been coaching a prizewinning junior-college cheerleading squad.



Miss January 1991 *Stacy Arthur*

She was a reigning Mrs. Ohio (below left) in the Mrs. America pageant when she posed for PLAYBOY's cover (below right) and centerfold. Her husband and manager, Jim, had helped her enter and win 32 beauty contest trophies in the preceding 12 months. Tragedy struck the following October, however, when he was fatally shot by a deranged fan of Stacy's, who then turned the gun on himself.



Miss February 1991 *Cristy Thom*

By the time she reached PLAYBOY's centerfold, Cristy (above) had already posed for a Snap-On Tools calendar and wasn't too sure she wanted to make her living as a model. But by year's end, modeling had paid her way to China, Germany, Mexico, Czechoslovakia and the Maldives.



Miss March 1991 *Julie Clarke*

Just a month after her centerfold bow, Julie (below) was back in the spotlight—this time on PLAYBOY's cover, to promote a spring-break pictorial. In ensuing months, Miss March spent much of her time in and out of bikinis, posing for swimwear catalogs. She's still in Florida and still a fitness buff.



Miss May 1991 *Carrie Yazel*

"My most important achievement," says Carrie (below), "is my daughter Sophia, who was a year old in May.

People often ask me, having a daughter now, how I would feel if she wanted to pose for PLAYBOY? And you know what? It wouldn't bother me a bit. I'll always be proud of being a Playmate, and I remember it as the most fun period of my life. I'd do it again in a second."

Her husband of four years is a screenwriter, whose credits include a rewrite on *Dumb and Dumber*. Carrie herself has appeared on screen, in *Death Becomes Her* and *Mr. Baseball*, as well as television's *Silk Stalkings* and *Renegade*.



Miss April 1991 *Christina Leardini*

"There have been so many times," says Christina (above), "that I've wanted to sit down and write Hef a letter saying, 'I can't imagine what somebody like me would have done if it hadn't been for PLAYBOY.' A pretty face doesn't mean anything when your mortgage is due." A single mother at 15, she was "working at McDonald's during the day-time, waiting tables at night and cleaning hotel rooms on weekends" to support her son when Florida talent scout Lou Maggio told her she should be a model. Still, it was years before she felt confident enough to pose in the nude. Married shortly before her centerfold appearance, Christina took time out to have two more children "a little closer than we expected," less than a year apart. Today, she is sufficiently self-assured to embark on a new career: writing, something she has been doing since she was 12, "but never before for money."

Miss June 1991

Saskia Linssen

Back home in the Netherlands, Saskia (below) was nervous about a lifestyle change. "I'm 26 years old, and tomorrow I'm going to start living with a man for the first time in my life," she reported this summer. Since appearing in *PLAYBOY*—in the *World Cup Women* pictorial (September 1990), as Playmate of the Year in the magazine's Dutch edition and the American edition's Miss June—Saskia has continued modeling. "But modeling is about stupid things that become very important," she says, "like, 'How do I look? Do I have pimples?' There are more important things in life."



Miss July 1991 *Wendy Kaye*

Wendy (right) got married in June 1996 and returned to her roots in the Lone Star State, where she's working as a secretary. "I didn't want to live in L.A. and become a movie star," she explains. "That life is so competitive, and a little too unstable for me."



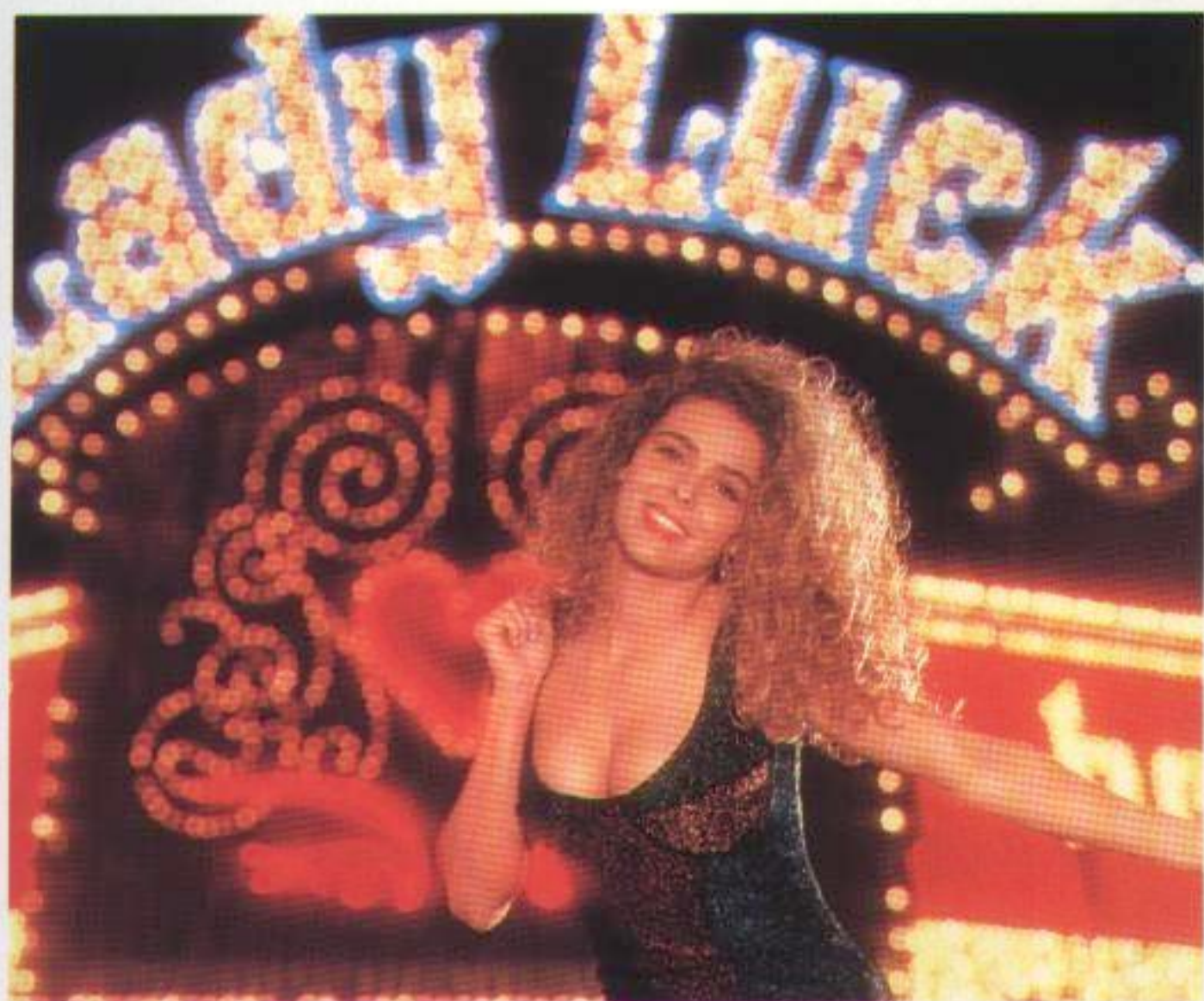


Miss August 1991

Corinna Harney

1992 Playmate of the Year

Corinna (opposite and below) and her husband, a former Navy man, live in Las Vegas, where they celebrated their second wedding anniversary in August 1996. Their year-old daughter, Kyler Victoria, keeps Corinna busy, but Corinna's also doing some acting. "I played Roger Daltrey's main squeeze in a movie called *Vampirella* for Showtime, and I'm supposed to have a line or two with Chevy Chase in *National Lampoon's Vegas Vacation*."



Miss September 1991

Samantha Dorman

At 5'10", Samantha (above and right) was eminently qualified to be the cover girl for PLAYBOY's July 1991 issue, which contained a tribute to tall girls, *The Height Report*. Already an established model with commercials for Tecate and Labatt beers, Nabisco Shredded Wheat, Coca-Cola and Diet Coke, Samantha was the buxom waitress in the *Seinfeld* series pilot.

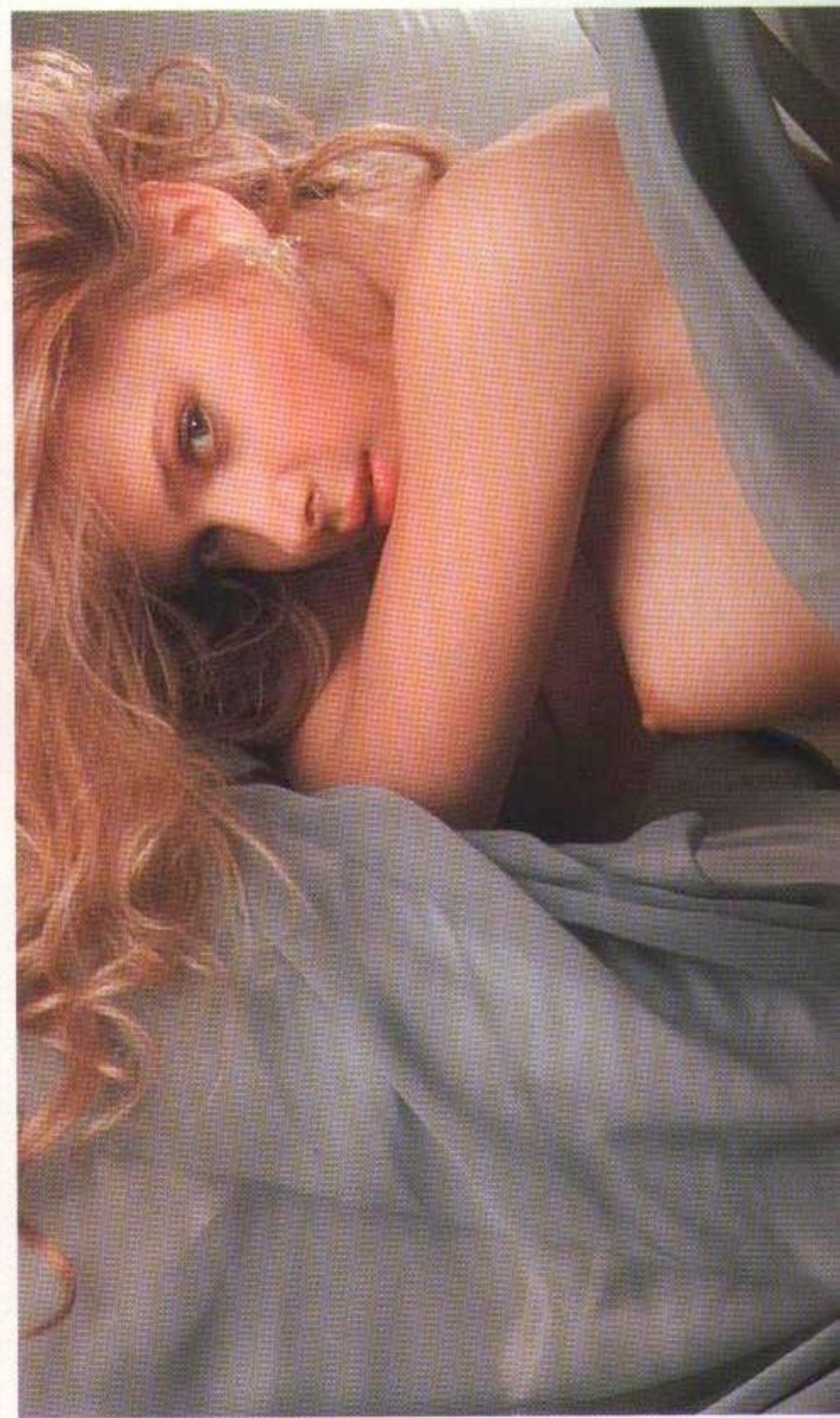




Miss October 1991

Cheryl Bachman

Cheryl (left), a native Floridian, saved her Playmate fee and the money she made through modeling and invested it in a nightclub in Miami's trendy South Beach. The club is now closed, but she owns the property and the building, which she plans to sell or lease so she can open something smaller in another location.



Miss November 1991

Tonja Christensen

Tonja (below and lower left) was a Barcelona-based model and karate student (bottom) when she posed for PLAYBOY. But she has returned to her roots in Utah, married and settled down as a housewife. "I just remodel the house, paint and lay tile, all those things that Playmates really shouldn't do. Or at least it's not our image." Tonja saved her Playmate and modeling fees and invested them in property—"quite successfully," she says.



Miss December 1991 *Wendy Hamilton*

Wendy (above) plans to go to college in her new home state of Nevada, aiming for a bachelor's degree in theater arts. "I lived in California for a while, modeled and did some acting—a few low-budget movies, about a hundred rock videos and, my favorite, a guest bit on *News Radio*—but the earthquake in 1994 really shook me up." After her Playmate appearance, Wendy cut her auburn hair short and dyed it black. She's expecting a baby in February 1997.



Miss January 1992 *Suzi Simpson*

Suzi played the lead role of Becky in the film *Enemy* and had smaller parts in *Men at Work*, *Ford Fairlane* and *St. Elmo's Fire*. "I'm financially comfortable enough now so that I can afford to give back some of my time to helping others, so I've been doing volunteer work at an animal shelter." When she did *PLAYBOY*, she was married to a Marine officer. "But he decided marriage and the Marine Corps weren't for him and he went up to L.A. to be an actor." Now she's engaged again. "Tylyn John, Miss March of my year, introduced me to my fiancé. If there's such a thing as a soulmate, he's probably it. We're thinking we'll elope."

Miss February 1992 *Tanya Beyer*

After her centerfold appearance, Minnesota-born Tanya (right) became a model on the international circuit. After trips to Asia, Europe and Mexico, she went to Jamaica to tape the *Playmates in Paradise* series for cable television. Now she lives in Florida. Balmy climes, she said, suited her. "I grew up in Colorado, scraping windshields, and I like warmer weather. I prefer water sports like snorkeling and windsurfing to skiing, too."





Miss March 1992

*Tylyn
John*

Since her centerfold bow, Tylyn (left) has been married and divorced, which she describes as "a valuable learning experience." Now she's taking courses in California aimed at a career in veterinary medicine. Tylyn has "a soft heart for animals. I actually like them a lot better than people. I have three dogs, three cats, two African tortoises, two box turtles, a turtle from Vietnam and several other pets," she says. "When my friends come over, they call me Dr. Dolittle."



Miss April 1992 *Cady Cantrell*

Cady (above) has returned to her Georgia home base after sampling Hollywood with roles in *Beverly Hills Cop III*, *The Mask* and *Weekend at Bernie's II*. A popular model for Playboy's Newsstand Specials, she has appeared in lingerie, bathing-beauty and *Girls of Summer* editions.



Miss May 1992

Anna Nicole Smith

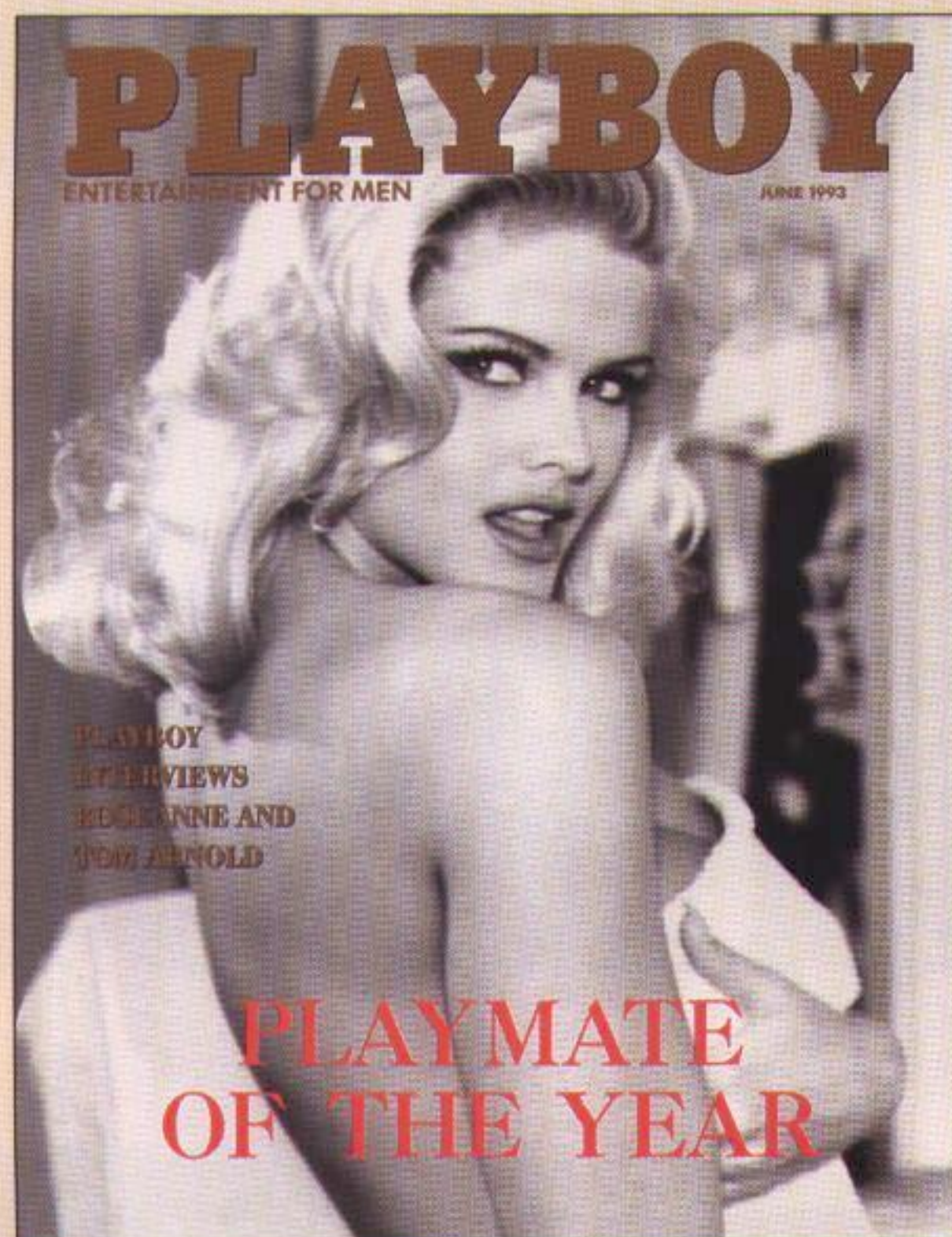
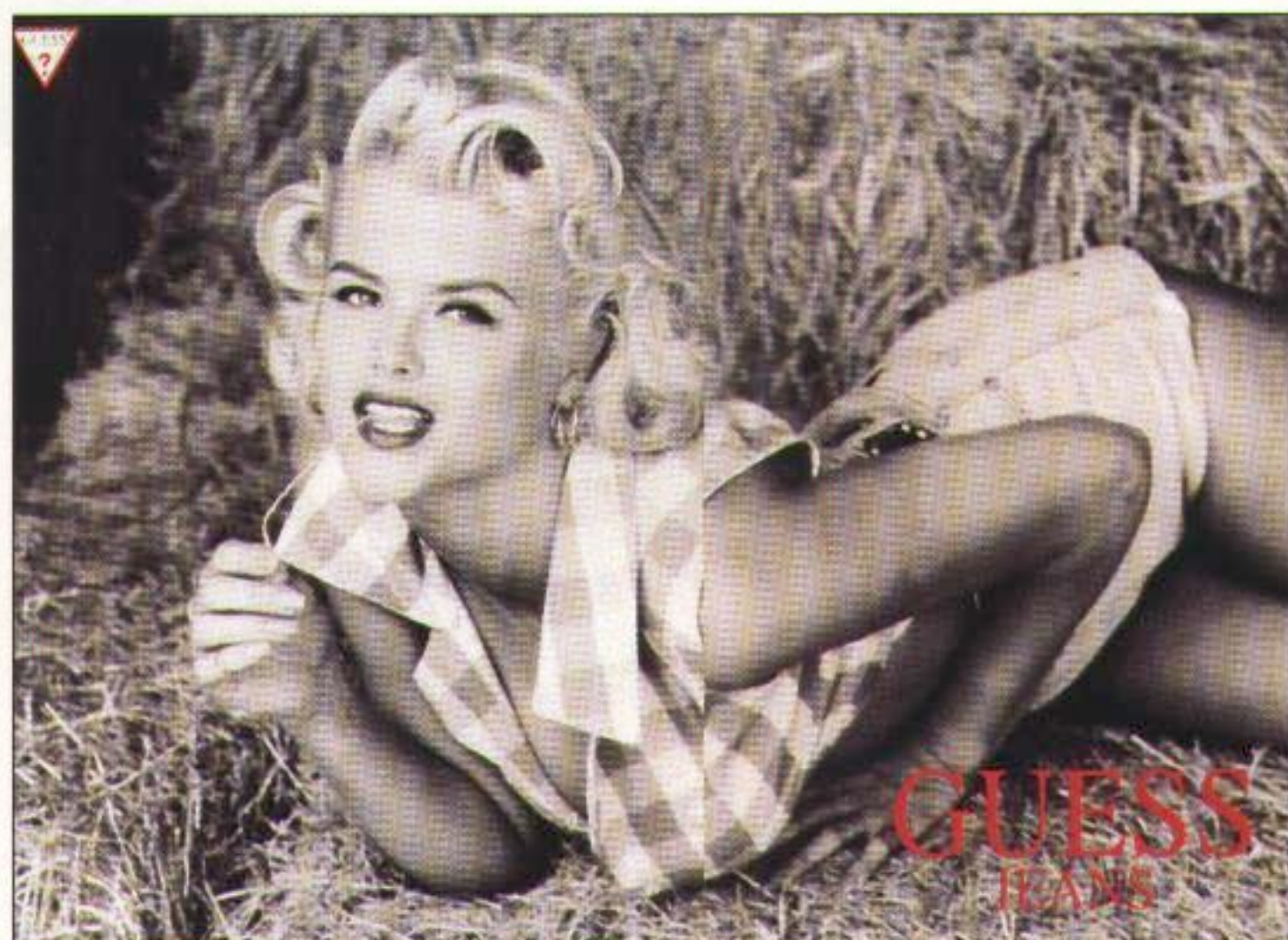
1993 Playmate of the Year

Anna Nicole is a force of nature, sometimes bigger than life. Known as Vickie when she came to PLAYBOY's attention, she was a single mom from Texas who had never been beyond the borders of the Lone Star State until she went to Los Angeles and posed as a debutante for the magazine's March 1992 cover. Guess Jeans honcho Paul Marciano saw her photos and booked her for an international ad campaign (below). Vickie (now Anna Nicole)

Smith has joined the ranks of history's legendary blonde bombshells. She made movies—*The Hudsucker Proxy*,

Naked Gun 33¹/₃ (bottom), *To the Limit*—

appeared on the opening episode of Tea Leoni's TV series *The Naked Truth* and astonished the world by marrying 89-year-old oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II in 1994. Turns out she had met him on her previously undisclosed job at a Houston topless club. The tabloids had a field day, and when Marshall died, the grieving widow and his other heirs became embroiled in highly public disputes. Anna Nicole, who had always battled a weight problem, ballooned. But she's resilient, landing a job modeling for Lane Bryant, maker of clothing for women built more for comfort than for speed; promoting her own fragrance, called Live; and making more movies (the disaster film *Skyscraper* and the forthcoming *Underground Comedy*).







Miss June 1992 *Angela Melini*

After her centerfold appeared, while taking advantage of modeling and showbiz opportunities in L.A., Angela (left) shared a one-bedroom apartment with fellow Playmates Cady Cantrell and Lorraine Olivia. "I saved every penny I made," she says, "and that way I was able to buy a house on the water when I came back to the Seattle area." She and the man she plans to marry sell real estate.

Miss July 1992 *Amanda Hope*

Out of the Army unit (below) to which she belonged when she posed for PLAYBOY (bottom), Amanda is "much happier now that I'm free. I'm always going to be glad that I did PLAYBOY, although I was worried about the reaction of my grandfather and two of my uncles, who are Pentecostal preachers. They got over it." Back home in Texas, she has found "a wonderful guy. We'll probably get married next year." Amanda hopes her clarinet or her voice will carry her into a musical show in Lake Tahoe.





Miss August 1992 *Ashley Allen*

Texas beauty Ashley (above) was already a model when PLAYBOY beckoned, and has been on every Hawaiian Tropic swimsuit calendar—one of 12 models chosen from more than a thousand candidates for the past several years—and continues to do posters and billboards for Miller Brewing. In between, there have been roles on *Baywatch* and *Walker, Texas Ranger*.



Miss September 1992 *Morena Corwin*

She was born in Korea, spent her childhood in Michigan and her teen years in Florida, where she still lives with her husband (who owns a landscaping firm) and two tots, aged one and two. "Since I had the second one," says Morena (right), "I've started modeling again, especially for PLAYBOY."



Miss October 1992 *Tiffany Sloan*

The veteran of some dozen Playboy videos and a guest shot on *Married...With Children*, Tiffany (below) was featured on the big screen in *Last Action Hero* and *Weekend at Bernie's II*. As a member of the Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll troupe, she toured Europe and the Orient, and she served as choreographer for beauty pageants. Vegas-based Tiffany has also found time to volunteer for work with patients at a nursing home.



Miss November 1992 *Stephanie Adams*

"I got married a couple of years ago," says Stephanie (in her centerfold shot, right, and today, inset). "My husband, who's Italian, does a lot of European investment banking, and he's about to start his own company in New York."

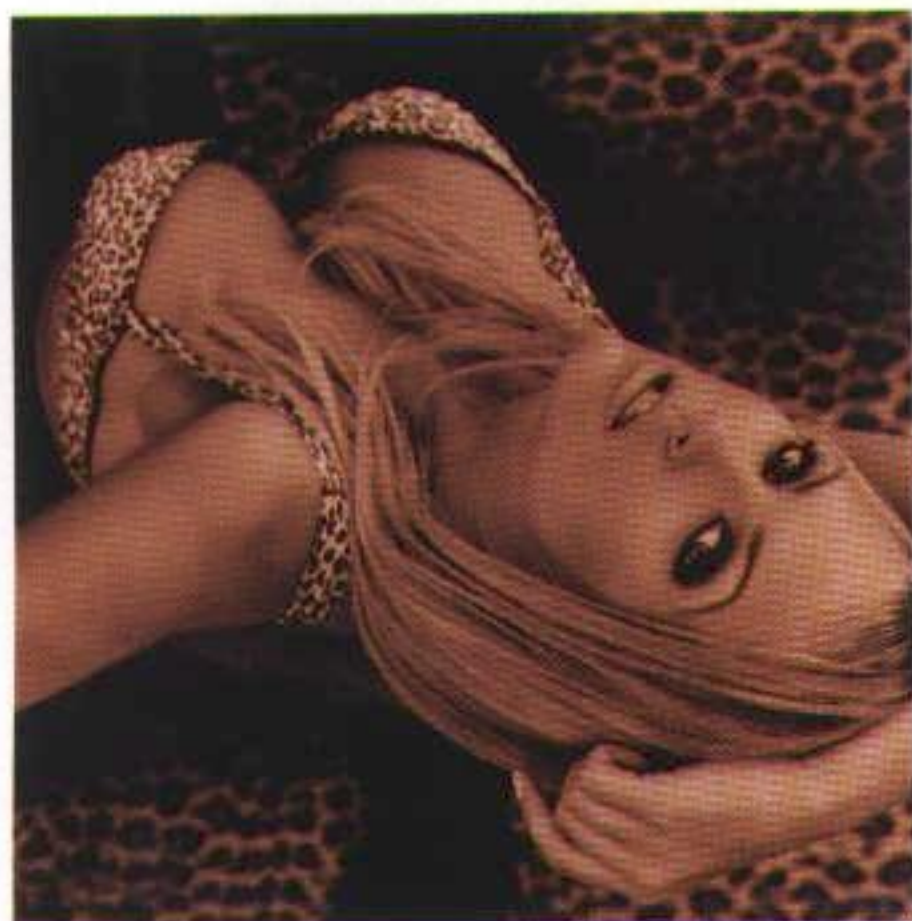
The couple has an active social life in Manhattan and Florida and Stephanie is still modeling for swimsuit and lingerie catalogs through her agencies—Metropolitan in New York and L'Agence in Miami.

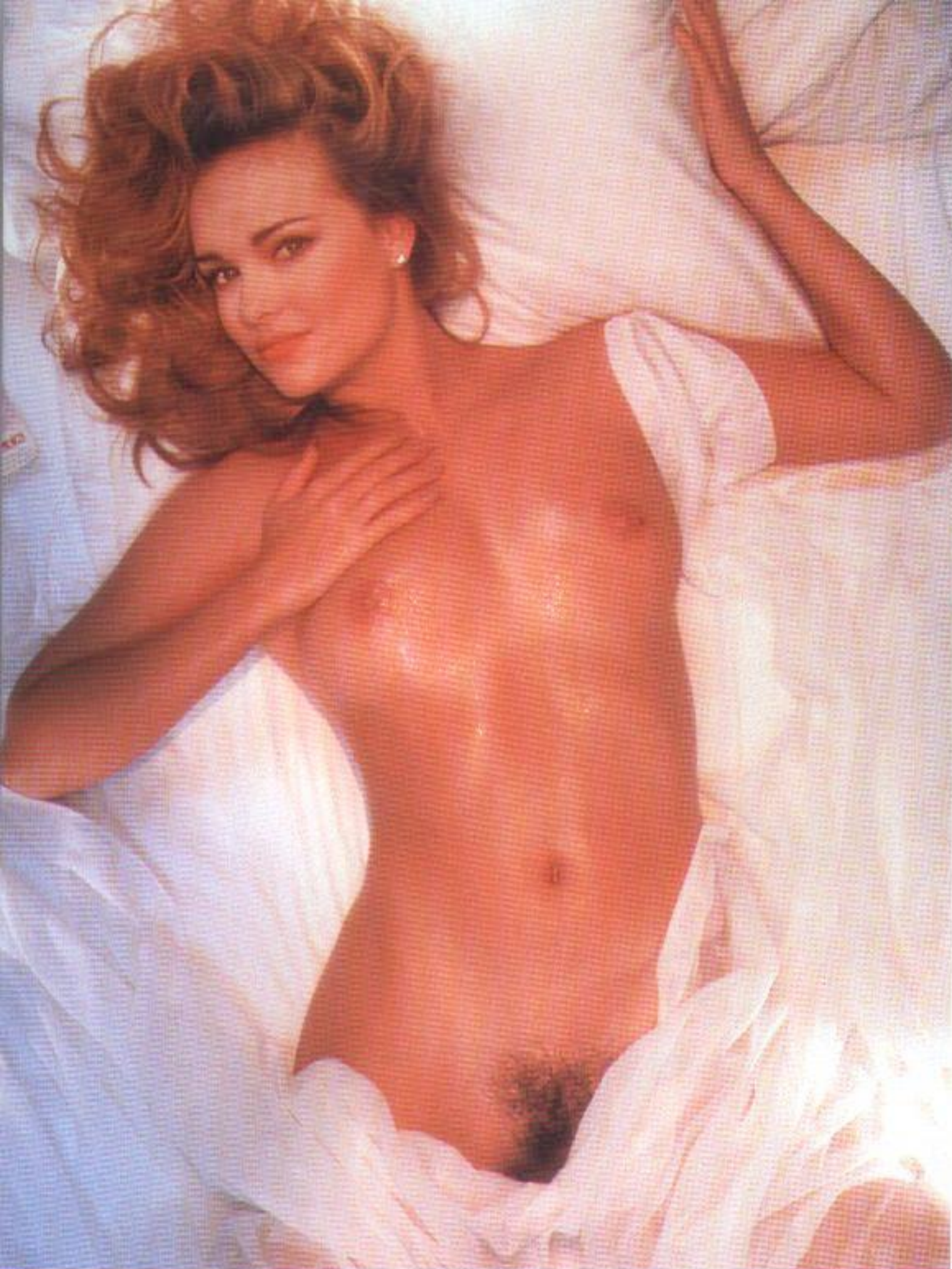


Miss December 1992

Barbara Moore

American Eagle flew Barbara (right and bottom) to Nashville, where it based her as a flight attendant. Nashville got Barbara some exposure in music videos, with Mick Jagger, Jim Carrey, Hank Williams Jr. and Reba McEntire (Barbara was the cheatin' woman Reba shot in *The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia*). PLAYBOY jump-started her modeling and acting careers. "I've worked on four continents, done many magazine covers and pictorials, print ads and television [*Baywatch*, *Silk Stalkings*]." PLAYBOY, says Barbara today (below), changed her life. "I'm telling you, it's hard to come to L.A. with no money. PLAYBOY gives you that \$20,000 in your pocket and a family behind you. I just thank God Hugh Hefner had that idea so long ago to start the magazine and give women like us a chance to start a career."





Miss January 1993 *Echo Johnson*

"It's really funny how I came to be a Playmate," says Echo (above and below). "My mother and I were having dinner in a restaurant in Santa Fe, where I'd gone to high school, and Greg Gorman, who happened to be shooting for PLAYBOY Germany, asked if I'd like to pose. I said, 'No way,' and my mom said, 'You have to do this, Echo, it's a great opportunity.' She'd had the chance to be a model but raised us kids instead, and I think she kind of lived vicariously through me. Anyway, I was actually in the German edition first." Echo now lives in her native Texas with her boyfriend, a club owner.



Miss February 1993 *Jennifer LeRoy*

She has been a model a half-dozen years, ever since leaving Colorado for New York, Paris, Tokyo and Taipei, but, says Jennifer (right), PLAYBOY has given her many more job breaks. "I never thought a nude spread would push me into the movie industry, but it has." Print, however, remains Jennifer's favorite medium.



Miss March 1993

Kimberly Donley

After having taken time off to travel and enjoy life, Kimberly (below) has been back and forth between Chicago and Arizona, with modeling agencies in both places. She's had commercials, ads on the Internet and an industrial film, plus she has appeared in numerous Playboy Newsstand Specials. "Next," she says, "I'm going to get my real estate license, like everybody else who lives in Arizona, and model and do commercials. I'm happy, and that's what counts."



Miss April 1993 *Nicole Wood*

"Since my layout, I haven't stopped working," says Nicole (below). "I've been flying back and forth to Europe every other month. I'm Miss July in the American Dream Girl calendar, and I'm doing the American Bikini Team, which is pretty famous in Europe. We do photo shoots, fashion shows, TV and radio appearances across the continent." She was involved with a pro hockey player for four years, but remains single.





Miss May 1993

Elke

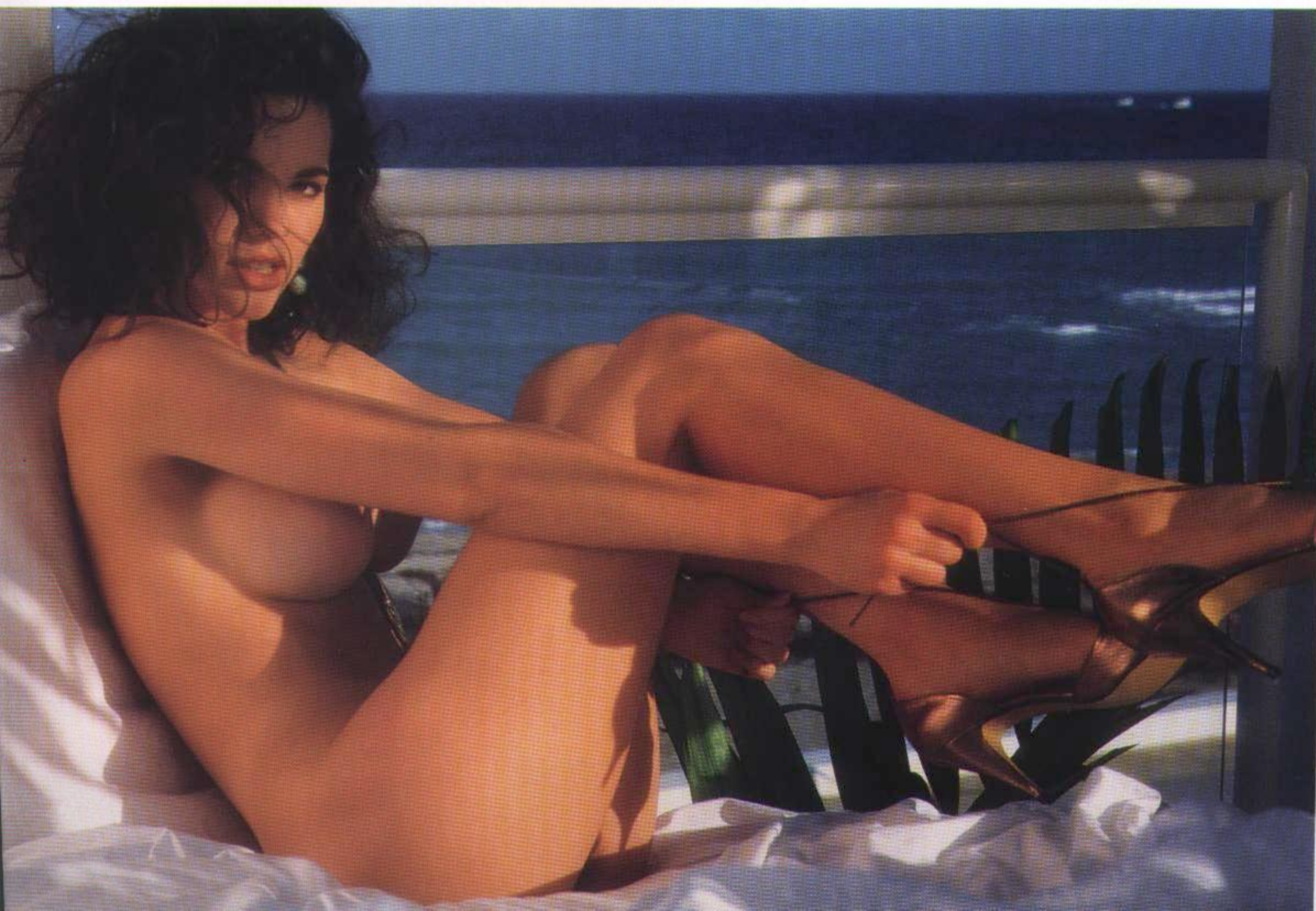
Jeinsen

Elke (far and near left) has pulled up stakes, moved from Germany and become a permanent resident of the U.S. Since arriving in Los Angeles, she has taken acting lessons, and is modeling and doing commercials. Elke has also appeared in the movie *Wayne's World* and television's *Baywatch* and *Blossom*.

Miss June 1993

Alesha Marie Oreskovich

Finishing her Latin and British literature courses by correspondence, thanks to special permission from university authorities, Alesha (below) has left Tampa for Nashville, where she's making music videos. Among her credits: Diamond Rio's *Walkin' Away*, Marty Stuart's *Magic Town* and tejano artist Joel Nava's *I Do*. She recently posed for a *Bathing Beauties* Newsstand Special in the Bahamas.



Miss July 1993

Leisa Sheridan

Leisa (below), a native of Nebraska who grew up in Carmel, California, developed a yen for more tropical beaches—Cancun, Jamaica, the Bahamas, Hawaii—and jet-skiing. She got married in September 1995 and temporarily abandoned her modeling career to travel with her husband to Japan, Thailand and Europe.



Miss August 1993

Jennifer Lavoie

She may have posed for the cover of the October 1994 college issue touting *Girls of the Southeastern Conference* (inset), but Jennifer's heart is still in New England. She and her mother own a company making tapestry handbags and luggage called the Cottage Collection. "We started it as a hobby," Jennifer (right) explains. "Five years later, we've grown quite a bit. Our products are sold in stores, through quality catalogs, and we do home parties." Jennifer also acts (*Eden Quest*), does PLAYBOY promotions and models shoes.



Miss October 1993

Jenny McCarthy

1994 Playmate of the Year

Hers is the second most requested image on the Internet, after Pamela Anderson's, and her hostess job on MTV's *Singled Out*—a rowdy *Dating Game* for the Nineties—

and frequent appearances on that network's *Beach House* have made Jenny a huge star. Not bad for a girl from Chicago's South Side whose first modeling job

was for *PLAYBOY* (at top right, she checks in with a receptionist for the magazine). In an unprecedented hat trick, Jenny made the covers of *PLAYBOY*, *Rolling Stone* and *TV Guide* within a single summer

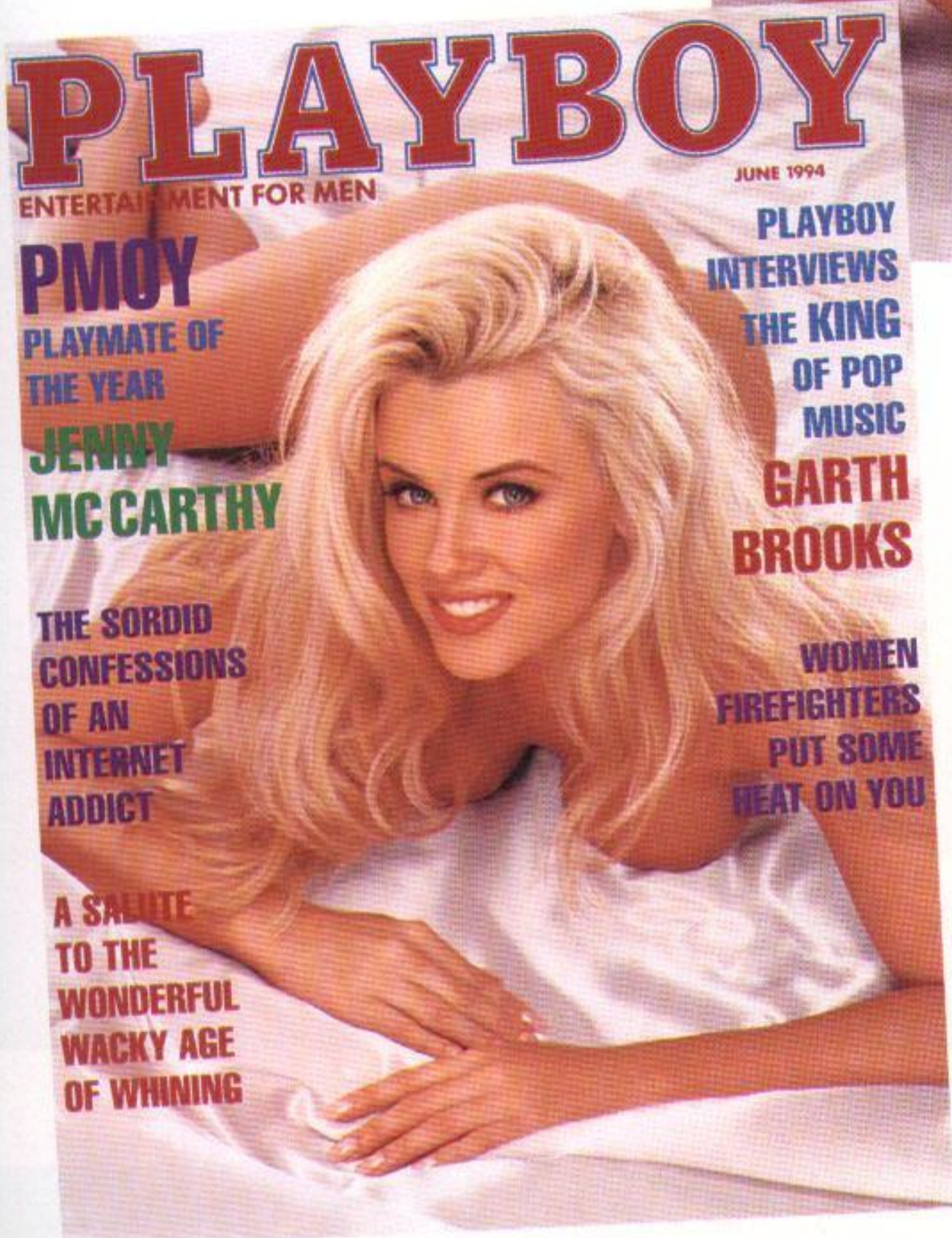
month of 1994. She recently released a CD, *Jenny McCarthy's Surfin' Safari*, a collection of classics by the likes of the Beach Boys and the Ventures, and she

has a new contract with MTV to develop two new series: a variety show and a Lucille Ball-style sitcom. Jenny's ambitions, as outlined on her Playmate Data Sheet, were "to succeed in TV

land, and eventually get a house, a husband and a Beaver Cleaver family." She has the success and, if not yet the Ward Cleaver

husband, a steady boyfriend in the person of her manager, Ray Manzella. Although she now claims, improbably, "I'm not a sex symbol," she does give credit

where it's due: "PLAYBOY was my launching pad, my only way to Hollywood, and it worked for me."







Miss November 1993 *Julianna Young*

Julianna has a sense of humor about her lavish figure (left). "You have to have some very long arms to get them around me," she told her Playmate interviewer. "But my large breasts are actually a blessing. They'll get me through the door. My brains can keep me there."

Miss September 1993 *Carrie Westcott*

Born about as far away from the ocean as one can get—in Mission Hills, Kansas—Carrie (below) moved early in life to the coincidentally named Mission Viejo, California. Carrie boasts a number of film credits, with starring roles in *Lover's Leap* and *The Pitch* and a featured role in *Wayne's World*. Television viewers have seen her on *L.A. Law*, *Parker Lewis Can't Lose* and *Davis Rules*.



Miss December 1993

Arlene Baxter

At Maywood Junior High in Renton, Washington, classmates called her Birdlegs. Arlene (left) had the last laugh when she developed a modeling career that earned her up to \$8000 a day, living in New York and traveling around the world before returning to her home base near Puget Sound.

Miss January 1994

Anna-Marie Goddard

40th Anniversary Playmate

In a November 1995 appearance on *The Tonight Show*, Holland-born Anna-Marie described a videotaped encounter with Bigfoot in the California redwoods. "People are still asking me about it," she says. It happened on an expedition to tape *Adventures*, the new travel-comedy TV show her husband, Collin, is writing and which Anna-Marie will host. "PLAYBOY has really helped us get the show going," she says, "because people look at me as a celebrity. I'm a Playmate, not just a model." Modeling, however, still keeps her busy, as does a new venture. "I'm going to make a three-track CD for the Benelux countries—Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg—that will be given out with an issue of Dutch PLAYBOY. My whole family is very musical, but I had never thought of a singing career myself."



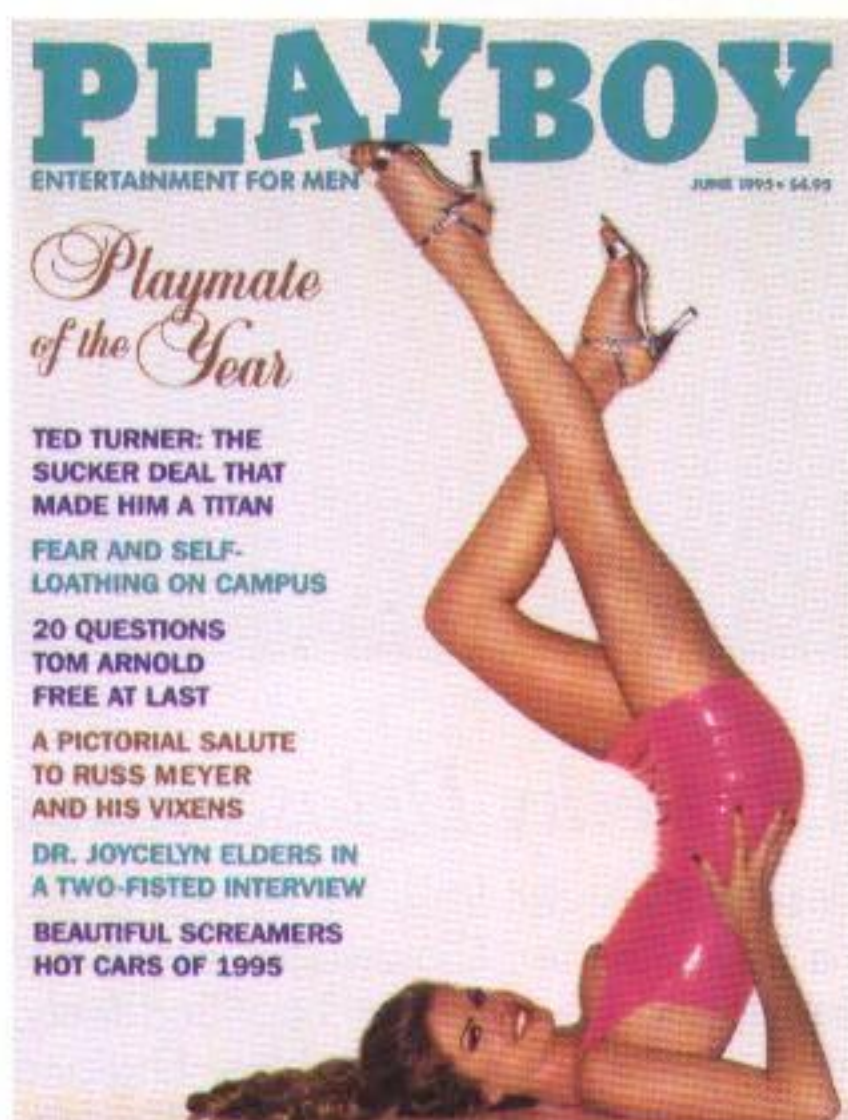
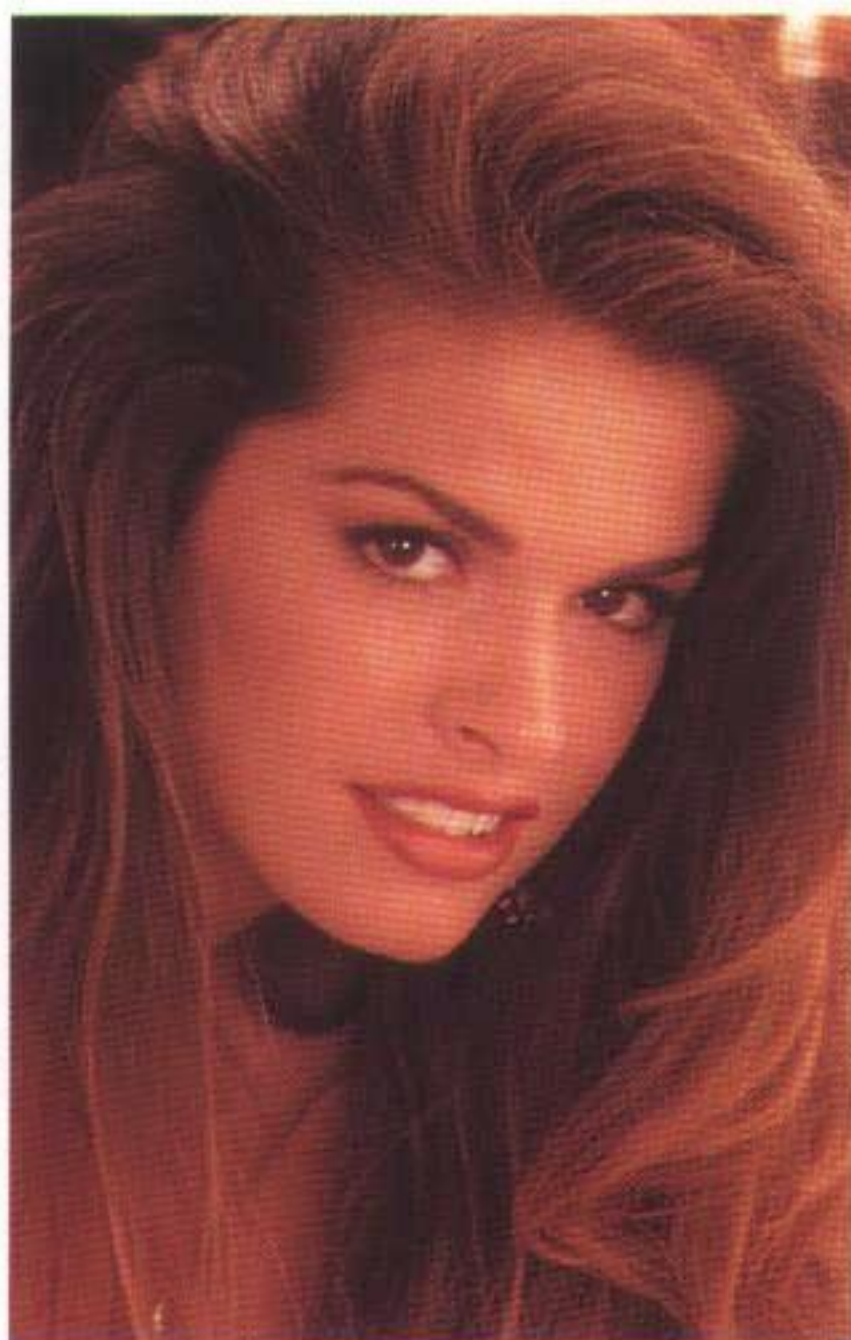


Miss February 1994

Julie Lynn Cialini

1995 Playmate of the Year

When PLAYBOY scheduled *The Right Stuff* pictorial, based on her role on the nighttime version of *The Price Is Right* (February 1995), Julie figured her Playmate of the Year hopes had gone out the window. The PMOY feature runs in June, and, says Julie, "I didn't think Hef would want to have me in the magazine again so soon." History proved her wrong—there she is with her prize Eagle Talon, bottom right—and Julie has been making the most of her PMOY status, with a regular role as Annie on the TV series *High Tide*, guest shots on *Baywatch Nights* and *Thunder in Paradise* and a part in the movie *Beach Academy*. She was also one of the first guests on *Late Net with Tim Conway, Jr.*, the World Wide Web's first interactive nightly talk show.





Miss March 1994

Neriah Davis

Although she still models—"enough to keep the bank account going," she says—Neriah (above and below) is devoting most of her time to working with youth groups at her church in Northern California. Experiences such as leading fifth and sixth graders in vacation Bible school classes have given her a taste for teaching. "I'm thinking of going back to school and getting my degree," she says. Neriah has also assisted her boyfriend in leading a group of high schoolers called DOGS, "for Disciples of God. We've done a lot of cool things with them. We've taken them camping, to a concert and on a mission trip to Tecate, Mexico, where they helped build houses."



Miss April 1994 *Becky DelosSantos*

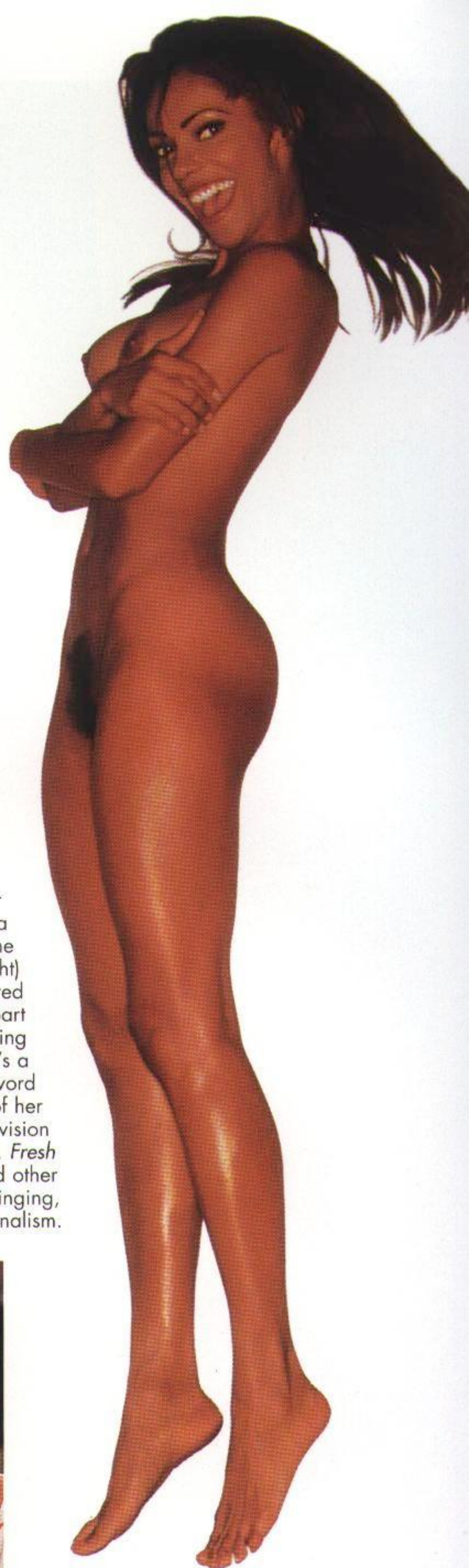
Although she had been a professional model from the age of eight, Becky (above) says she was a late bloomer. Classmates called her "Daddy Longlegs" until she started filling out at 16. "Suddenly, everyone was interested in me," she recalls. A New England native, Becky still works as a model in south Florida.



Miss May 1994

Shae Marks

Born and raised in New Orleans, Shae (left) had a job delivering cars in Houston when PLAYBOY discovered her. Like many a Playmate before her, she moved to Los Angeles and broke into show business. Recently, her new vocation took her back to Louisiana. "We were shooting a Showtime movie, *Day of the Warrior*, which aired in April, over near Shreveport," she says. "I played an undercover agent named Tiger." Next up for Shae: a wedding date.



Miss June 1994

Elan Carter

Despite the fact that her father, Otis Williams, is a founding member of the Temptations, Elan (right) hadn't seriously considered singing, but she's now part of a four-girl singing group called Eswaj—"it's a phonetic spelling of the word assuage." That's on top of her modeling schedule, television guest shots on *Seinfeld*, *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and other shows, and studies in singing, acting and broadcast journalism.



Miss July 1994 *Traci Adell*

All that media fuss about O.J. Simpson's having called her on the night his ex-wife Nicole and Ron Goldman were murdered threatened to obscure what Traci (left and above) is doing in her real life: acting and writing. She has amassed a number of film credits and TV roles. Lately, she has been on the book-tour circuit, autographing her new volume of fairy tales for children.



Miss August 1994 *Maria Checa*

PLAYBOY's first Colombian-born Playmate (left) shocked some of the folks back home with her centerfold appearance. "They're still a little conservative there," she says, "but they're all very happy for me now." Maria, who has been busy traveling, modeling and doing commercials for the Latin market, just got engaged. "We're thinking of setting the date, probably for May 1997."



Miss September 1994

Kelly Gallagher

Things are moving right along for Kelly (above and below), who wrote on her Playmate Data Sheet that her ambition was "to own my own marvelous design and furnishings business." She does, dealing with commercial and residential clients in Los Angeles.





Miss October 1994 *Victoria Zdrok*

Victoria expects to complete work on both of her degrees—in law and psychology from Villanova and Hahnemann Universities—by the end of 1996. She's thinking of hosting her own TV show, dealing with issues such as the insanity defense that combine both disciplines. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian émigré lives in the Philadelphia suburbs, models in America and Europe, is going through a divorce and enjoying life with a new fiancé. "He's from Barcelona, so I'm adding Spanish to the five languages I spoke when I posed for *PLAYBOY*."

Miss November 1994 *Donna Perry*

Early in 1996 Donna (right) and her husband welcomed a son. Says she: "Hef said he had hoped for another centerfold. 'Hey,' I said, 'I'm not finished yet.'" Donna's grandmother by marriage is Joan Staley, Miss November 1958. So, in a way, Playmatehood runs in the family. And the links continue: Her baby's godmother is Donna's best friend, 1995 Playmate of the Year Julie Lynn Cialini.



Miss December 1994

Elisa Bridges

Her fans got a chance, however fleeting, to catch Elisa (left) on screen in the hit movie *Birdcage*. "I'm in a beach scene, right behind Robin Williams and Nathan Lane, for a good ten seconds," Elisa says. "I'm wearing a bikini, but you don't see much of the bikini—you just see my face and my legs. That's not my goal as an actress, but it's a start." Elisa, who is serious about becoming an actress, has been taking classes in Miami and has plans to move to Los Angeles.



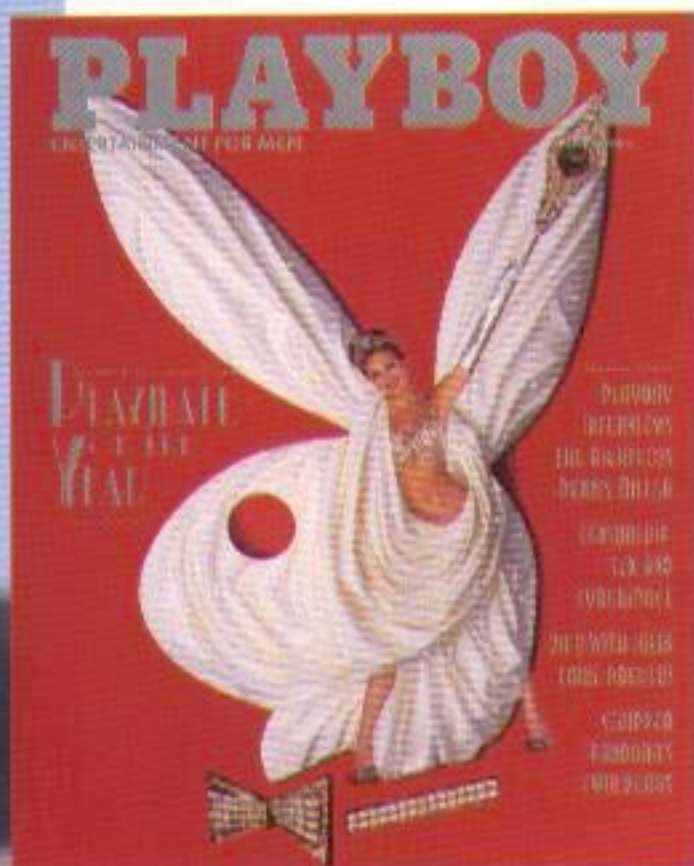
Miss March 1995

Stacy Sanches

1996 Playmate of the Year

"I'm living out of luggage!" says Stacy (left), recounting some of her Playmate of the Year travels: Tampa, Reno, Chicago, Tennessee, Indianapolis, Houston, Dallas, Las Vegas, New Orleans, Boston. "But it's cool. Being the one girl a year who wins that title, it's definitely my dream come true. I'm taking pictures at each stop, so I'll have a great memory book." As soon as things settle down a little bit, Stacy plans to concentrate on studying acting.

She'll also have time to tool around in the Jeep Cherokee that, along with a \$100,000 check, was part of her PMOY prize. At the present time, she claims to be much too busy to have a boyfriend.



Miss January 1995 *Melissa Holliday*

Melissa (above) got married in January 1996 to a man she met through friends in Denver. The newlyweds moved to Arizona and have been commuting between there and the Los Angeles area, where Melissa is getting her career as an actress, model and singer back in gear after a bout of ill health. Her favorite job so far: working with Phil Hartman on the TV show *A Word from Our Sponsor*.

Miss February 1995 *Lisa Marie Scott*

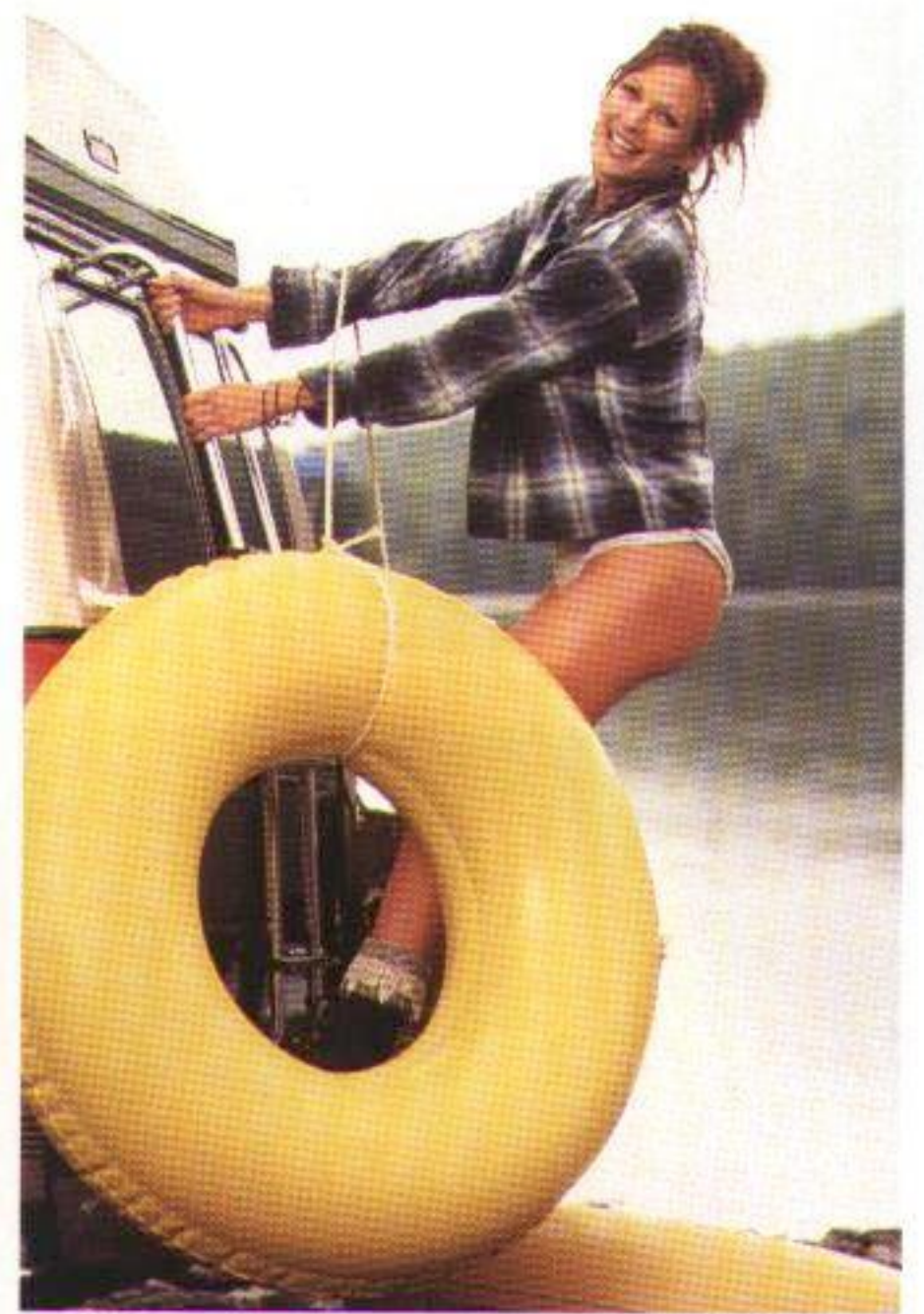
Lisa (below) came to PLAYBOY through the 40th Anniversary Playmate Search. "I'm only 5'2"," she says, "so I'd never done any modeling, but we sent pictures in and things just happened from there. I've already done three feature films with really great actors (Eric Roberts, Malcolm McDowell and Ben Cross) and do oodles of PLAYBOY jobs in between."



Miss April 1995

Danelle Folta

"I'm all business," says Danelle (left), who owns and operates a Pennsylvania firm that distributes lead-acid batteries. "It's a very good product that supplies a source of uninterrupted power for security systems, computer backup, lighting and the like," she says. "I'd been looking for something that would take me beyond my modeling career and provide a secure retirement." She admits her customers—all dealers, not individual battery purchasers—get a kick out of doing business with a Playmate. Danelle, however, is happily married, "to the best husband in the world. My life is like a storybook."



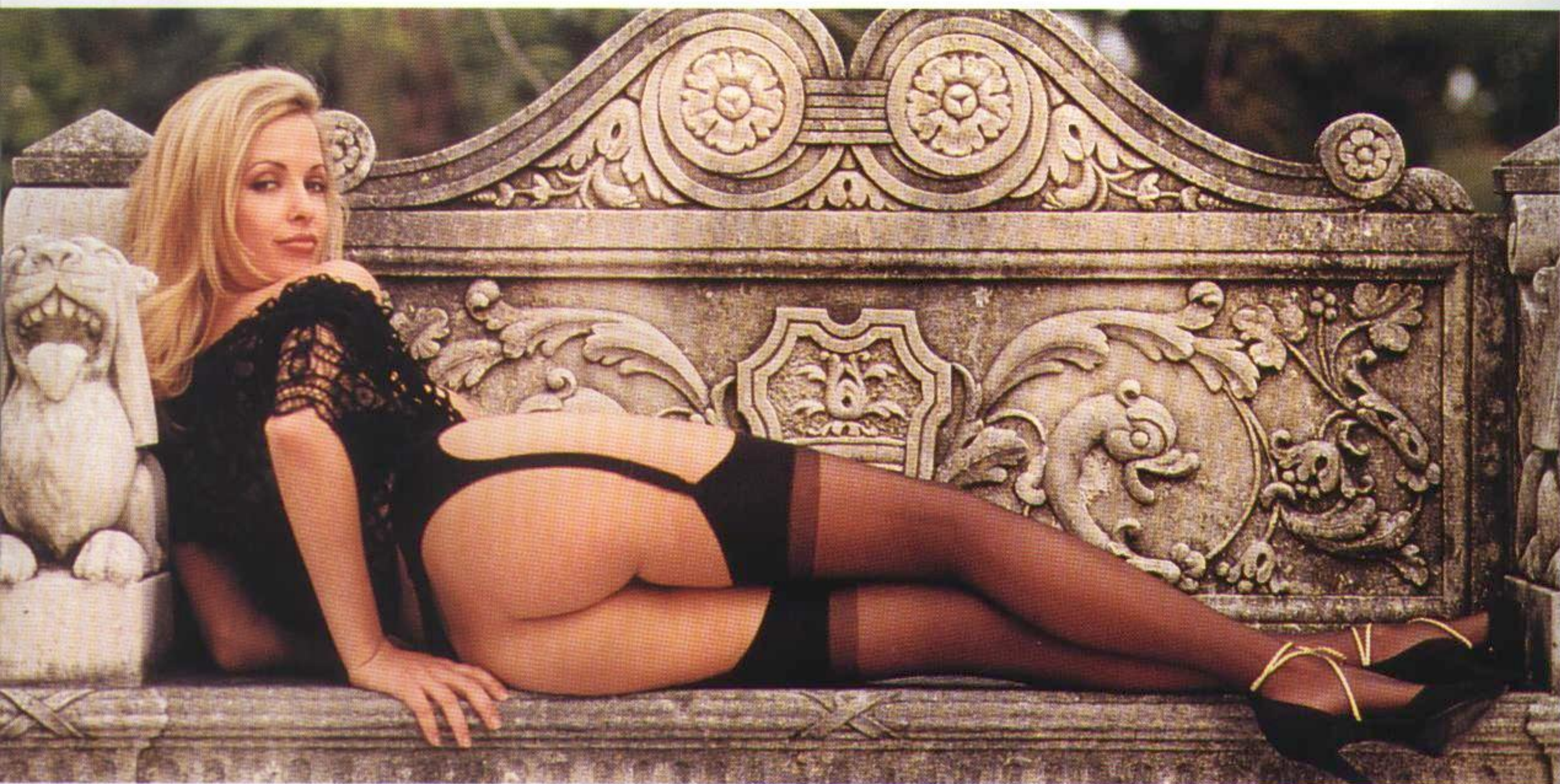
Miss May 1995

Cindy Brown

Always a bit of a rebel, she upset her California farm family—who raised sheep, goats, pigs, cows and chickens—by announcing she was a vegetarian.

That was just one of her intriguing contradictions. Interviewed by *PLAYBOY*, Cindy declared that she'd like to streamline the Environmental Protection Agency and then admitted that she lusted for a gas-guzzling Harley.





Miss June 1995 *Rhonda Adams*

Modeling assignments have taken Rhonda (above) from West Palm Beach to Italy, France and Germany. Back home in Florida, she commutes to Miami for modeling jobs. "Then I go Rollerblading, do the lunch thing with my girlfriends and get taken for walks by my dogs."



Miss July 1995 *Heidi Mark*

Another find from the 1993 *Where the Girls Are* pictorial, Heidi (left and above) was told by PLAYBOY's Marilyn Grabowski that she had Playmate potential—if she'd just put on ten pounds, which she did. She was a contract player on *The Young and the Restless*, a series regular in *Thunder in Paradise*, played guest leads in *Red Shoe Diaries* and *Deadline for Murder* (a Disney movie of the week). At a Playboy Mansion West poker night, agent Ray Manzella saw Heidi's April 1994 cover, "and I've been working ever since," she says. Heidi's main man is Vince Neil, former lead singer of Motley Crue.

Miss August 1995

Rachel Jeán Marteen

Rachel's PLAYBOY career began with a *Playboy's Book of Lingerie* cover and has gone on to include modeling and promotional visits to Colombia, Japan and all over the U.S. If Rachel ever decides to retire from modeling, she has amassed enough college credits to get her back on her original career track: physical therapy. Brought up in a conservative Georgia household, she was told that nudity was taboo.

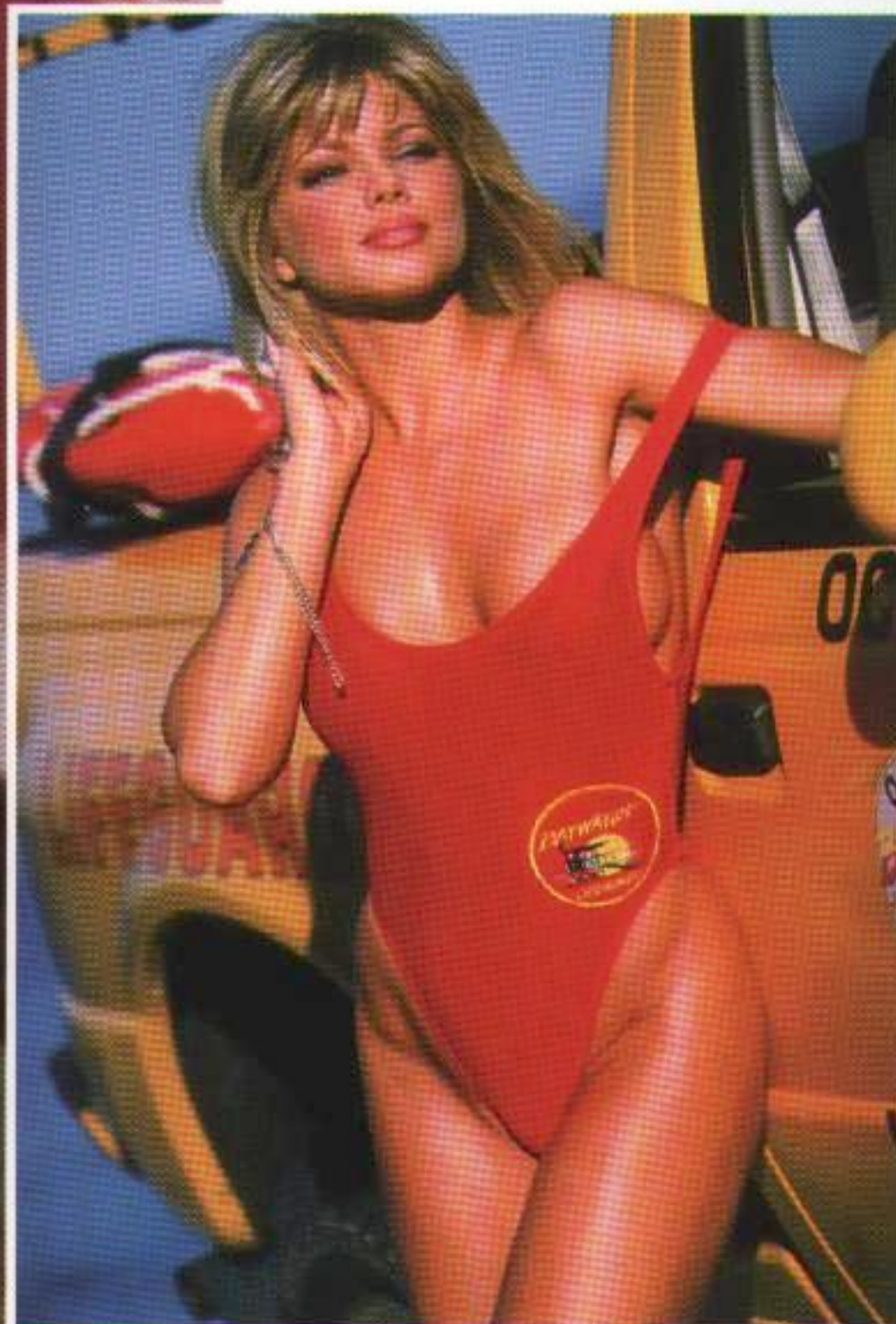
"But PLAYBOY has taught me to be really comfortable with myself," she says. "I'm not ashamed to go au naturel." At bottom, she goes over her pictures with photographer Richard Fegley.



Miss September 1995

*Donna
D'Errico*

Donna feels she has had amazing luck since moving to Los Angeles. "Every audition I went on, I got the part. Small things at first, on *Married...With Children* and *High Tide*, a



Tostitos commercial, and *Baywatch*." Now Donna is a crossover character—also named Donna—on both *Baywatch* (inset) and *Baywatch Nights*. The former Las Vegas limousine driver wasn't a notably strong swimmer, so *Baywatch* set her up with a swim coach. "I swam from 4:30 to 5:30 A.M. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for months, and I've gotten very good. I'm focused, concentrating on my career right now. I don't have time to fool around with staying out late and waking up the next day with a hangover." Still, she says, "This is the happiest time of my life. I'm very grateful to PLAYBOY. When I appeared in the magazine, I didn't really think much would come out of it, but I thought, What the hey, I'll try. And PLAYBOY's the reason I'm doing so well now."



Miss October 1995

Alicia Rickter

PLAYBOY's history-making 500th Playmate has a lot of hustle. She talked magazine editors into featuring her in a September 1996 fashion layout. She is repped by three modeling agencies—Ford in Los Angeles, Elite in Chicago and Flash in Milan—and recently returned from three months' worth of assignments in Italy. "I'm still in college, minoring in psychology, but I think I'll probably end up majoring in communications. Realistically, I don't think I want to end up psychoanalyzing everybody every day."

Miss November 1995

Holly Witt

Holly (below) finally got the Harley she said she wanted in her Playmate story. She also got a husband—"the most wonderful man." A former dental assistant, Holly has enrolled in a Texas college—fees paid with her Playmate money—and is studying anatomy, physiology and other prerequisites for dental hygienist training. "They accept only 24 students a year out of about 200 applicants for the program, but if I keep my GPA up I'll have a good chance of getting in. It's a two-year course leading to an associate degree in health and science."





Miss December 1995

Samantha Torres

Although she was a top model—Spain's entry in the 1992 Miss World contest—Samantha told her *PLAYBOY* interviewer that acting was her true love. The girl from the island of Ibiza is now filming a *novela*—the Hispanic version of a soap opera—in Bogotá, Colombia. (It's about a girl from a small island who goes to the U.S. and poses for a men's magazine.)

She's still modeling, however, with layouts in Spain's *Ola* and *Hello* and in the South Beach magazine *Oceanside*.

Miss January 1996

Victoria Fuller

"PLAYBOY was something I always wanted to do," says Victoria (right), who actually submitted photos to the magazine and was turned down twice. "A lot of women want to do it but think they'd never have a chance." Miss January has traveled extensively on behalf of the magazine, visiting the Bahamas, Phoenix, Las Vegas and California. A commercial artist, she designs logos and recently created comic strip characters for a telecommunications company's advertising campaign.



Miss February 1996 *Kona Carmack*

The rest of her family lives in Hawaii, but Kona (above) has been going to college in North Carolina, where her father is a physician. She took a semester off to do PLAYBOY promotions, and her interest in cigars, expressed in her Playmate story, won her guest-of-honor status at a benefit cigar-tasting back home in Hawaii.

Miss March 1996 *Priscilla Taylor*

The peripatetic Miss March (right) has moved again, this time to California. She had conquered the world of modeling in south Florida (but still dreams of owning her own agency) and, at the time of her centerfold bow, was turning heads in Manhattan. There she got to fulfill one ambition she had expressed on her Playmate Data Sheet: "To shake the hand of the person behind the Absolut vodka ads. I've framed every one."



Miss April 1996

Gillian Bonner

"I got into computers during my modeling days, to keep track of my accounting and expenses," Gillian (below) says. Then I owned a mail-order computer company, which I sold a couple of years ago, and went back to school to study computer animation." Gillian's new software-development company—partially financed by her dozen years as a successful model with national commercial and print accounts that included Cover Girl, Avon and Phisoderm—is releasing its first CD-ROM game called *Riana Rouge*, due out at the end of 1996. Gillian wrote the story, supervised the creation of the game, and plays Riana, the woman who can conquer five different worlds (if players make the right decisions to empower her). Gillian says her PLAYBOY appearance earned her just what she wanted: publicity for her product and lots of hits on her home page (<http://www.blackdragon.com>).



Miss June 1996

Karin Taylor

Since her centerfold debut, Karin (above) has moved to New York because there's more year-round modeling there than in Florida. Wanting to put down roots in her new home, she has also adopted a charity project. "I've been named a spokeswoman for Pet Owners With AIDS Resource Service, which helps people with AIDS keep their pets. I have two dogs myself, so I understand how important pets can be. Many people suffering from AIDS have had family and friends desert them, and their pets become all they have."

Miss May 1996

Shauna Sand

Shauna impressed fans—and series star Lorenzo Lamas—so much with her first appearance, as a swimsuit model, on *Renegade* that she returned twice during her first season, each time as a different character.

Now married to Lorenzo (inset), who encouraged her to do her centerfold pictorial with a theme based on their wedding, she's back on the show—this time in a recurring role as Lake Bradshaw.



Shauna started performing at the age of nine. She won a two-year scholarship to Ballet West in Aspen, attended the School of Performing and Creative Arts in San Diego, appeared onstage at San Diego Junior Theater and the Old Globe and landed her first modeling contract (with Elite Petite) at 15.

Shauna worked in the U.S., Mexico and Japan and, on her 18th birthday, got on a plane for Europe, where she spent four years and earned a degree in international business administration from the American University in Paris.



Miss July 1996 *Angel Boris*

PLAYBOY discovered Angel (right) in Florida for its *Girls of Hawaiian Tropic* pictorial in April 1995 and featured her in two Newsstand Specials before placing her in the centerfold. She appeared in two entries in September's Independent Feature Film Market fest in New York: *Suicide Blonde*, entered as a work in progress, and *Always Something Better*. She's also scheduled to host a *Girls of South Beach* video for Playboy, and continues to model.



Miss August 1996 *Jessica Lee*

She was working at a Tampa radio station, taking business courses at a local community college and considering a career in public relations, when she came to PLAYBOY's attention. Now, like many a centerfold before her, Jessica (above) is moving to California to study acting.





Miss September 1996 *Jennifer Allan*

Nevada-born Jennifer (above) had been working for five years as a model—sometimes for PLAYBOY's lingerie catalogs—when she was selected for the magazine's centerfold. "I wanted to see where being a Playmate could lead me," she explained. One place she hopes it leads: to college. "I would like to continue modeling through college, earn a degree in education and then raise a family while teaching the second grade."

Miss October 1996 *Nadine Chanz*

Born in Hildesheim, Germany, Nadine (below) is a model who appeared four times in PLAYBOY's German edition before crossing the Atlantic to try her luck in America. She says, "I like my body and want to show what nature built. I like the world of modeling and, of course, I'd like to have money to live life as I want."



